

IN THE NEWS SECTION



Power sharing at Liverpool

WITH 10 PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Anne Robinson: material girl

THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW



Kinsey: sex, lies & documentaries

PRIVATE LIVES, ARTS, COMMENT & NETWORK

Revealed: top peers hiding paid interests

BY FRAN ABRAMS AND ANDREW MULLINS

DOZENS OF prominent peers hold directorships which they choose not to declare, the *Independent* has learned. The revelation has prompted new calls for tighter regulation of peers' interests. Some of the interests, though not all, are paid.

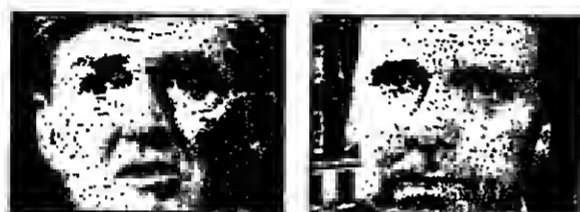
However, the peers could soon be forced to declare their business interests in the same way as MPs do under a review which will start in the autumn.

Several frontbenchers represent their parties on industries with which they have links, and some have made speeches or asked questions without mentioning them. Among them are Lord Brabazon of Tara, a Conservative transport spokesman who holds a number of positions with transport groups, and Lord Ezra, a Liberal Democrat energy spokesman who has links with the power industry.

Not one of these peers has broken the rules, though. Under a voluntary system of registration set up in 1995, decisions on what to declare are left largely up to them. Although they must declare Parliamentary consultancies and posts with lobbyists, the committee set up to deal with breaches did not receive a single formal complaint in its first two years.

Now a House of Lords committee is preparing to overhaul the Register of Members' interests, and Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in

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What Lords Parkinson, Brabazon and Moynihan failed to mention
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The public should have the right to know that politicians' words come from their hearts and not from their wallets.
Leading article, Review page 3

Public Life is to consider holding its own parallel inquiry.

The procedure committee will face calls for the House of Lords to be regulated in the same way as the Commons. MPs are required to register all their business interests and can be suspended from the House of Commons if they fail to do so.

Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman and a member of the committee, proposed an identical system for the lords when the current rules were written three years ago but it was rejected. At the weekend he said that with wider reforms of the House of Lords on the agenda it was time to make the change.

"We should be required to

register our interests whatever they might be. I see no difference between our legislative role and the influence we bring to bear and that of the Commons," he said.

A spokesman for the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life said the issue had been on the "back-burner" since 1995. However, the Lords' register of interests would be on its list of topics for possible future investigation when its current inquiry on political funding was completed this autumn, he said.

"Clearly there are issues if people are speaking on something in which they have a clear interest," he said.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, a former Conservative transport minister, lists links with the Ve-

hicle Security Installation Board, the British International Freight Association, the Natural Gas Vehicles Association and the Institute of the Motor Industry in the register but does not always mention them in speeches.

Lord Ezra, a former chairman of the National Coal Board who is the Liberal Democrats' energy spokesman, lists a number of power company directorships in the register but failed to mention them explicitly in one recent debate.

Others stepped outside their portfolios to comment on areas where they had financial links. Lord Moynihan, the former Conservative sport minister, now speaks on foreign affairs. He recently called for new rules to allow the setting up of offshore wind farms without mentioning his directorship of a firm which might bid to run such farms in the future.

One peer who chooses not to register any interests in the House of Lords register is Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party Chairman. Companies House records show that he is a director of Odyssey Corporation, which sells mobile phones, and Planet Online Ltd, which provides Internet services. Most of the frontbench peers who have undeclared directorships are Conservatives or Liberal Democrats because ministers are covered by much stricter rules. Their code of conduct demands they resign all financial interests or place them in trust when taking their posts.

Wealthy Arab who hates the US - is he the man behind the bombs?



Osama bin Laden: 'We are still at the beginning of our military action against the US' Copyright: Robert Fisk

THE AFGHAN night was freezing. In the claustrophobic tent, the oil lamp sputtered while Osama bin Laden talked. "We are still at the beginning of our military action against the Americans," he said. No, he added with contempt, he was not the "terrorist" whom the American secret services claimed him to be. But US forces must withdraw from Saudi Arabia.

"If liberating my land is called terrorism, this is a great honour for me," he said. When he talked to me at his mountain camp in Afghanistan - less than 18 months ago - he was careful in his words, dissociating the Europeans from the "sins" of the Americans.

A tall, thin man with a grey beard, bin Laden was one of the great "mujahideen" (holy warrior) heroes of the war against the Soviet army, using his fleet of bulldozers to blast tank and ammunition trails through the bleak grey mountains of Afghanistan to fight the Russians. Then, he was one of the Good Guys. I slept that night of our interview beside a massive air-raid shelter cut into the living rock of the mountainside by his Saudi, Syrian, Kuwaiti and Algerian guerrillas.

So could this be the man - now, so the Americans tell us, one of the Bad Guys - who planned the bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam? Yesterday the number of dead in the two bombings reached 155 in Nairobi and 10 in Dar es Salaam. Bin Laden would not, I am sure,

BY ROBERT FISK
Middle East Correspondent

have condemned this slaughter, aimed so directly - even if at such cost to civilians - at the American administration.

But when he discovered I had just come from Beirut and had the local Lebanese newspapers in my bag, he sat in the corner of his tent reading the reports of Iran's new demarche towards Saudi Arabia, of Israel's increased settlement activity on the occupied West Bank and of Turkey's treaty with Israel.

If this was a "mastermind of world terrorism" - according to the predictably anonymous sources of western journalists - then he was woefully out of touch with the world he was supposed to be terrorising.

True, his family is immensely wealthy. At least one of his brothers - there are more than 40 by several of his father's wives - is at Harvard. Two of his three wives are with him in Afghanistan, where the Saudi-paid Taliban militia protect him.

"We believe the Taliban are sincere in their attempts to enforce Islamic religious law," he told me in Afghanistan last year. "We saw the situation here before and after, and have seen an obvious improvement." Bin Laden, it should be said, would have no objections to the beheading of supposed criminals. His Saudi Arabia - should he ever see the Kingdom of his dreams - will be a republic of harsh Islamic law. As for the Americans, they must go.

Panic in Devon as 800 cut by razor shells

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

THOUSANDS of holidaymakers were evacuated from three packed beaches yesterday after 800 people suffered freak cuts from the shells of razor fish.

Paignton, Preston and Broadlands beaches in Torbay, Devon, had to be closed and roads to the beaches were sealed off. Coastguard officials, police and even deckchair attendants were drafted in to tend the injured, with 30 people taken to Torbay Hospital. Torbay council said the incident was "classified as a total emergency operation". A fleet of 14 ambulances, including an air ambulance, were called into action.

All the injured suffered cuts to their feet after standing on the shells of dead razor fish, which were buried in the sand. Because of the hot weather there were extreme tides which had caused the sea to go out much further than usual. It meant that people were padding in areas that were not usually accessible, the Brixham Coastguard said.

Brian Pearce, beach manager for Torbay council, said the scenes had been chaotic with hundreds of bathers streaming out of the sea with lacerations to their feet. "The majority had small cuts, but a few had bad ones which were treated in hospital. I have never seen

anything like it. I hope I do not see it again," he said.

Lawrence Parker, reception manager at the Inn on the Green on Paignton seaford, said: "It was chaos. The beach was packed one minute and abandoned the next."

"Some people must have been quite seriously injured because an air ambulance landed on the beach at one stage."

One victim was Ryan Ashington, 15, who had to go to hospital to have stitches in his left foot. His mother, Debbie, said: "The tide was out and just beginning to turn when he ran into the shallows and hurt his foot - he thought he had stood on a stone, but he had cut his left

foot. It was about an inch long and very deep and it was pouring with blood," she said.

"I had never seen anything like it in 20 years. People were picking their kids out of the water, and some of the little ones were crying."

Tide levels are expected to return to normal in about three days' time.



One of the razor fish shells found on the beach

England in Test cliffhanger

BY IAN TASKER

THE FINAL Test match between England and South Africa is poised on a knife edge after a thrilling fourth day's play at Headingley yesterday.

With the series tied at 1-1 and all to play for, the game swung dramatically first one way and then the other as 14 wickets fell during the day.

Victory is tantalisingly near the grasp of both sides and

the visitors' reach. However, South Africa's fast bowler, Allan Donald, had other ideas and he tore through the lower English batting order. England were dismissed for 240, the last six wickets chalking up just 40 runs. Donald and Shaun Pollock both claimed five wickets.

The South Africans' victory target of 219 then very quickly looked a long way off. Helped by

some more of the contentious umpiring decisions that have blighted this series, England's pace attack of Darren Gough and Angus Fraser reduced South Africa to 27 for 5.

Then, as an exultant Headingley crowd prepared to salute England's first victory in a five-Test series since Mike Gatting claimed the Ashes in 1987,

DEREK PRINGLE, PAGE 25

A £150m boost for a rail freight route from Scotland to the Channel Tunnel is to be approved

Senior rugby union officials are meeting today to discuss the creation of a British league

Bill Clinton is to go on the campaign trail, a week before he gives evidence on Lewinsky

Robin Cook dismissed David Shayler's claims of a plot to kill Colonel Gaddafi as 'pure fantasy'

The Lake District is awash with cheap brown heroin, according to drugs counsellors

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A surgeon under investigation for his role in more than 40 allegedly bungled operations and diagnoses has launched a fight to challenge the inquiry. Page 5

Cautious welcome to LVF pledge

Political leaders in Northern Ireland gave a cautious welcome to the pledge by the Loyalist Volunteer Force that it was ending its campaign of violence. Page 6

Tail lights go out all over Britain

Glow-worms may be declining because increased road lighting is confusing the male insects when searching for the glowing females. Page 7

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Scandal of imprisoned children

Thousands of children in Pakistan are being held in prison for up to a year waiting for trials at which only 10 per cent are found guilty. Page 10

China improves flood defences

Teams of flood fighters have strengthened Wuhan's inner city flood defences as the level of the Yangtze continued to creep higher. Page 12

BUSINESS NEWS

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BOC set to cut 1,000 British jobs

BOC is set to announce 1,000 job losses as the Asian crisis forces the company to cut costs. Page 15

Airbus to share £5bn BA order

BA is set to share out a £5bn aircraft order between the two arch-rivals Airbus Industrie and Boeing. Page 15

SPORTS NEWS

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Scot wins WPGA at Gleneagles

Scottish golfer Catriona Matthew won the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe at Gleneagles with her fourth sub-par round of the tournament. Page 20

Leeds close to rugby league title

Leeds improved their chances of winning rugby league's Super League with a 40-6 win over Salford. Page 22

MONDAY REVIEW

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'The Government will suffer, possibly fatally, if a recession blows apart its programme for jobs.' Page 3

Trevor Phillips

'What we hear from the African bishops is the last gasp of men who see that the colonial establishment of which they are a part has been rumbling.' Page 4

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'No one blames China for the early rains, but nor can Mother Nature be accused for many of the underlying reasons for China's water mismanagement.' Page 6

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT
RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up of 42.2% of
the raw material for all newspapers
in the UK built in 1998



The Edinburgh Festival gets into full swing in Princess Street with a procession yesterday

Geraint Lewis

Cook dismisses Gaddafi plot as 'pure fantasy'

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, Robin Cook, yesterday launched a

BY GARY FINN

withering attack on former MI6 agent David Shayler, dismissing his claims of a British secret service plot to kill Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi as "pure fantasy".

Mr Cook, whose predecessor Sir Malcolm Rifkind would have had to sanction the 1996 assassination attempt, said he had already investigated the claims and had established that they had "no basis in fact".

The Foreign Secretary denied that the Government was poised to sanction an internal investigation by Parliament's all-party Intelligence and Security Committee into the whistle-blowing affair despite growing pressure from the Labour back benches for an inquiry.

Mr Cook's rebuttal came as David Shayler's girlfriend, Annie Machon, repeated his al-

legations that the assassination attempt was true. She said: "I think they (the Government) are so touchy because they realise what he's saying is true."

"He headed up the Libyan section in MI6 for over two years, so he was very well informed about all matters relating to Libya."

"He also managed to develop a particularly good working relationship with his opposite number in MI6 and I gather that is how he found out the details of the plot to kill Gaddafi," she said.

But in an interview with BBC television yesterday, Mr Cook declared: "The tale about an MI6 plot to assassinate Gaddafi is pure fantasy."

He added: "I have pursued these allegations. I am absolutely satisfied that the pre-



Shayler: Claims bungled attempt to kill Gaddafi

vious Foreign Secretary did not authorise any such assassination attempt. I'm perfectly satisfied that SIS (the Secret Intelligence Service - MI6) never put forward any such proposal for an assassination attempt. "Nor have I seen anything in

the 15 months I have been in the job which would suggest that SIS has any interest, any role or any experience over the decades of any such escapade. It is pure fantasy."

Brushing aside Mr Shayler's claims, Mr Cook said: "I do wish people would recognise that... somebody who has left another service - not SIS, he was never in SIS - is making allegations, no doubt for his own reasons."

"We would like to see him back in Britain in order to pursue those charges that are to be made against him."

He added: "I'm perfectly clear that these allegations have no basis in fact."

John Wadham, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of Liberty, said: "The Government is saying that this story is not true. If this is what they truly believe, why is my client still in a French jail for disclosing it?"

Mr Shayler is in jail in Paris pending proceedings to face him extradited to Britain to get charges under the Official Secrets Act.

He alleges that a wing of MI6 endorsed a plot to kill Colonel Gaddafi in 1996, but the agents placed explosives under the wrong car when they targeted the Libyan leader's motorcade in February 1996.

The bomb missed Colonel Gaddafi and killed a number of bystanders instead, Mr Shayler has told the *New York Times*.

Under British law, MI6 can legally carry out acts abroad which would be outlawed in Britain providing they are authorised by the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Shayler fled to France after claiming MI6 bungled a number of operations and a government injunction barred newspapers from printing fresh allegations.

Violent assaults hit NHS workers

BY GLENDA COOPER

NHS STAFF are four times more likely to be the victims of violence than other workers, according to a new study. Nearly one in 10 have been assaulted. Unions representing health workers warned that this was likely to be only "the tip of the iceberg" because of difficulties in reporting such attacks, and called for prevention policies to be toughened up.

The survey, carried out for the quarterly journal the *Health Service Report*, questioned 105 trusts about the incidence and nature of violence experienced by healthcare trusts.

Jeremy Baugh, of the Industrial Relations Services and author of the report said he was "very surprised" by the level of assaults the survey uncovered.

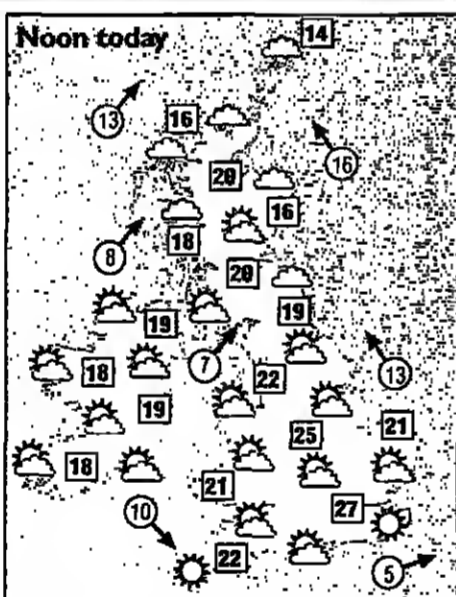
Those most at risk are staff who work in community and mental health trusts where one in three staff were the victims of assault. Around one in 10 of all violent incidents result in major injury but amongst community and mental health trusts this rises above 20 per cent. More than one in 20 of assaults involve use of a weapon.

Unison, Britain's biggest health union said they thought the figure was higher than 10 per cent. "Our own survey findings consistently show around 40 per cent of NHS staff suffer violent attacks at work," said Jon Richards Unison's health and safety officer.

Tackling violence against NHS staff has been made a priority by the Government. In June Health Minister Alan Milburn said the Government was "determined to provide a safe environment so that staff can deliver care without fear of violence". Last year the Health and Safety Commission recommended a systematic approach to the problem.

Ninety per cent of trusts questioned said that they had a formal policy on violence. However, only one in seven trusts has carried out a risk assessment covering violence at work.

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

There will be light rain in the north and north-west of Scotland, but in other areas some warm sunshine will break through. However, the east coast will be cloudier and cooler. That goes for the north-east coast of England as well, but elsewhere in England and Wales there will be some sunshine and it will become warm or even hot. Many coasts will have cooling sea-breezes. Northern Ireland will see sunny spells with just the chance of a shower in the west later.

NEXT FEW DAYS

The hot conditions over the southern UK will come to an end and temperatures will be a little lower everywhere on Tuesday. Most areas will stay dry with some sunshine but rain will move east across Northern Ireland and Scotland, some heavy in the west. Northern England and Wales will be wet later, and showers will affect all other parts on Wednesday. It will be a cooler day and the rest of the week will be cool and unsettled.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

	Belfast	21.07	to	05.52
	Birmingham	20.43	to	05.43
	Bristol	20.43	to	05.43
	Glasgow	21.05	to	05.40
	London	20.33	to	05.39
	Manchester	20.48	to	05.41
	Newcastle	20.51	to	05.33

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04:39	7.5	16:24	7.5
Liverpool	01:18	9.8	13:40	9.6
Avonmouth	09:39	13.6	22:00	13.9
Hull (near docks)	08:30	9.0	21:02	8.8
Greenwich	02:51	3.6	15:15	3.4
Dun Laoghaire	01:25	4.3	13:58	4.0

AIR QUALITY

	NO ₂	O ₃
London	Good	Moderate
S. England	Good	High
Wales	Good	Moderate
N. England	Good	Moderate
Scotland	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05:38
Sun sets:	20:33
Moon rises:	21:50
Moon sets:	08:27
Last quarter:	August 14

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 54800 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map right. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 30p per min (inc VAT)

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon
KEY: C: Cloudy; Cl: clear; F: Rain; Fg: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; Sh: shower; Ss: snow; Th: thunder.

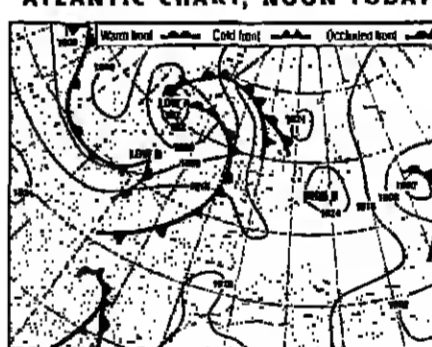
Aberdeen	C	14	57
Anglesey	S	23	23
Ayr	C	21	70
Belfast	C	20	68
Birmingham	F	22	72
Blackpool	F	24	75
Bournemouth	S	27	81
Brighton	S	25	72
Bristol	S	26	79
Burton	S	25	77
Cardiff	F	22	72
Cardle	F	20	68
Dorchester	C	22	72
Edinburgh	C	11	63
Exeter	S	24	75
Glasgow	C	18	64
Gwent	C	21	70
Hereford	R	21	70
Immingham	S	21	70
Isle of Wight	S	20	68
Jersey	S	24	75
Leamington	S	21	70
Leeds	S	23	73
London	S	23	73
Manchester	S	23	73
Newcastle	F	19	66
Nottingham	S	21	70
Orkney	S	23	73
Plymouth	C	11	63
Reading	S	23	73
Southampton	S	23	73
Southend	C	19	66
Swansea	C	16	61
Wales	C	19	66

AIR QUALITY

	NO ₂	O ₃
London	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Moderate
N. England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



High B is drifting south-east. Low A will be slow moving with Low B moving north-east.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Algeria	27.85	Chertan	3.88	London	28.82	Rybinsk	0.12.94
Alexandria	32.30	Colaba	24.75	Los Angeles	27.73	Rio de Janeiro	24.84
Algiers	30.86	Copenhagen	18.64	Luxembourg	21.88	Rio de Janeiro	24.75
Almaty	38.85	Carls	34.83	Madrid	34.83	Riyadh	42.88
Amsterdam	21.70	Dakar	29.84	Moscow	33.80	Rome	29.84
Ankara	19.55	Darwin	28.84	Mumbai	28.82	Salt Lake	29.84
Antwerp	23.83	Delhi	27.81	Nairobi	27.81	Salt Lake	29.84
Auckland	13.55	Hong Kong	31.88	San Francisco	17.83	San Francisco	17.83
Bahia	28.13	Islamabad	35.85	Sao Paulo	24.80	Sao Paulo	24.80
Bangkok	30.86	Frankfurt	28.73	Shanghai	28.82	Shanghai	28.82
Barcelona	31.88	Geneva	28.73	Singapore	28.82	Singapore	28.82
Berlin	21.70	Helsinki	28.73	Sydney	28.82	Sydney	28.82
Bombay	23.83	London	28.82	Taipei	28.82	Taipei	28.82
Buenos Aires	23.83	Manila	28.82	Tokyo	28.82	Tokyo	28.82
Burgas	23.83	Medan	28.82	Ulaanbaatar	28.82	Ulaanbaatar	28.82
Calcutta	23.83	Montevideo	28.82	Yokohama	28.82	Yokohama	28.82
Cardiff	23.83	Norfolk	28.82				
Cardle	23.83	Osaka	28.82				
Cardle	23.83	Paris	28.82				
Cardle	23.83	Perth	28.82				
Cardle	23.83	Port Stanley	28.82				
Cardle	23.83	Prague	28.82				

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Violent assaults hit NHS workers

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 10 August 1998

HOME NEWS/3

Hunt for a heartbeat in the ruins

BY MARY BRAID
in Nairobi

AS THE death toll in the US embassy blast in Nairobi rose to 155 yesterday, Michael Njoroge was filing past a row of mutilated bodies in the city's morgue, along with hundreds of other Kenyans, seeking relatives.

Mr Njoroge's brother William, 30, an auditor, worked in the now demolished Ufundi House, next door to the US embassy, where frantic rescue efforts to reach survivors, entombed by rubble, continued last night.

A few press photographers mingled with the grieving mortuary crowd. But their pictures will never be published. The raw, vicious reality of a bomb blast is simply too horrific for public consumption.

Outside in the mortuary gardens, relatives passed through bright orange flowers springing from neat, well-tended beds. Inside the bare white rooms, where blood congealed on stone floors, one man lay naked on a slab, intestines erupting from his open stomach. Some were so charred that only the whites of their eyes survived. Others lay with their heads blown off and limbs missing. There are victims here clearly beyond identification. It seems impossible that some believe that "heroism" like this leads straight to heaven.

"Just pray for our brother," said Mr Njoroge, emerging to tell 20 waiting relatives that William was not inside. For two days now they have been bounced from hospitals to morgues to view the dead, listen to lists of victims called out by megaphone and run their eyes down rows of names pinned to mortuary gates. It has been a strangely silent, undemonstrative business. In the mortuary car park two women weep in each other's arms but most people stand around quietly, waiting.

The huge Njoroge clan was marooned yesterday between desire to know the worst and the need to cling, even now, to hope. Like the other relatives, they have been kept away from the bomb site. They have not seen it, except on television. "You have seen the build-



Rescuers carrying out a Kenyan man found alive after being trapped in the rubble in Nairobi for 36 hours

Hadar Cohen

ing," says Mr Njoroge. "Is there still hope? We still think William might be alive under the rubble."

At Ufundi House the rescue teams, led by a 200-strong Israeli team, were working to make almost impossible dreams come true. But time they know is running out. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimated yesterday that 10 people might still be trapped, among them girls from a secretarial college housed in the building.

It has been a weekend of back-

and heart-breaking work. Mostly, rescuers have only retrieved the crushed and deformed bodies of the dead. Only one man has been pulled alive from the rubble though rescuers have come tantalisingly close to saving others.

On Saturday night David Kambl, a Kenyan engineer, fought for four hours to reach a 40-year-old man pinned down by concrete. He talked to the trapped man to keep his spirits up but he died just seconds before the team reached him. He used his final breath to thank the rescuers for their efforts and apologise for fail-

ing to hold on.

Last night rescue teams were trying to reach a woman called Rose trapped under one of the most dense piles of masonry. But they worked on knowing that it might already be too late. Yesterday afternoon her response to voices began to fade; until, finally, all contact ceased.

The rescue operation is extremely dangerous, with the building constantly on the move. Its precarious condition halted early attempts to burrow underneath the rubble. Now the rescuers are clearing

from the top. After an initial, pitiful lack of resources, heavy slabs of concrete are now being removed by a 150-tonne crane, drills and blow torches. But the most delicate work continues to be performed, agonisingly slowly, by hand.

Rescuers were visited yesterday by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi who said the bombers had simply alienated Kenyans. "How can they expect Kenya to support their cause if they use such methods?" he said. "Even if they wanted the US embassy they should not have targeted

Kenyans. Kenyans are peaceful people."

It is hard not to make third world-first world comparisons. The US embassy in Nairobi, the target of Friday's bomb attack, stands largely in tact, its bomb proof windows loose but unbroken. Just behind the American building is a hole where Ufundi House once stood. It took the brunt of the blast. With no hi-tech building materials to protect it, its four floors of offices were reduced to a hill of rubble and twisted, tangled metal.

Kenyans complain that the

US has not helped in the recovery of hundreds of office workers and secretarial students from the Ufundi block. The US, they say, has selfishly and insensitively concentrated on its own nationals - 11 Americans are confirmed dead. Their complaints are privately echoed by journalists and aid workers.

"They should have helped us," said one man, searching for a missing relative. "After all we are innocent. We have nothing to do with American and Arab problems." While he blamed the bombers for mass

murder, he said the US should have moved its embassy from the city centre and criticised it for failing to maintain security standards, particularly with hostile Sudan as a close neighbour.

Nina Galbe, regional spokeswoman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, tried to be diplomatic. "While we understand that the Americans were concerned foremost with their own nationals and general security in their building, a greater US presence would have been welcomed earlier, given the extent of suffering in Kenyan society."

Until the arrival of the Israeli experts on Saturday afternoon, rescue efforts - led by Kenyans, digging with their bare hands, and local Asian businessmen, operating their own construction equipment - was well-meaning but pitifully amateur. Ms Galbe says people died in the rubble because of the lack of swift, co-ordinated action.

She said that the effect on Kenya would be profound and long-lasting. Many Kenyans who perished in the explosion were sole bread winners for huge extended families.

More than 20 FBI agents arrived in Nairobi last night to join two colleagues who arrived on Friday. There are already plenty of theories circulating. The Nairobi Sunday Nation newspaper yesterday carried an interview with a security man who claimed to have seen three Arabs secretly filming the embassy just four days before the blast. But US security guards, he says, dismissed him, saying the three were probably tourists.

Other witnesses have described what appears to have been a suicide bomber. They say they saw a man drive into the embassy's rear parking bay and sit inside his car until the explosion.

FBI spokesman Frank Scaifidi said yesterday that the priority was to determine what explosive was used and how it was transported to the scene. That information he said "can be like a fingerprint of who did it." The American Embassy in Tanzania, where the second terrorist bomb exploded on Friday last night announced it might have a video of the bombers.

Israel's rescue squad are top dogs in a disaster

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

GIL WEINER, the soldier who dragged out the first survivor of the Nairobi bombing saved by the Israeli dog squad on Saturday is an architecture student working his way through college as a lifeguard at a swimming-pool in Jerusalem.

Like him, most of the 170 officers and men who flew to Nairobi within 24 hours of the explosion are reservists.

They are recruited during the last year of their three-year compulsory service and trained on simulated disaster sites. In civilian life they are called up for one week a year of refresher courses. A permanent alert staff is primed to mobilise them at short notice.

"My men are not the strongest soldiers in the army," the commander of their training base, Ronen Greenberg, said yesterday, "but they have to be pretty strong and... they must know how to handle sophisticated equipment, and how to fix it quickly if it malfunctions during an emergency."

They are taught patience



An Israeli soldier with one of the rescue dogs

and caution. Mr Weiner and his team kept their survivor talking for six hours before they got him out of his steel and concrete trap. Their commander insisted they work only from the side and above.

Although the man had a broken leg and head injuries, rushing the operation might have brought tons of rubble down on rescued and rescuers.

The emergency unit was

established during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon after an explosion demolished an army administrative block in Tyre, killing 89 soldiers and secret-service agents. Since then, it has seen service at home and on humanitarian missions on three continents.

It rescued Israeli civilians from Tel Aviv flats hit by Iraqi Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf war. In the mid-1980s it joined the search for survivors

of earthquakes in Mexico and Armenia.

In 1992 it extricated dead and wounded from the Israeli embassy building blown up in Buenos Aires.

The Army also sent a medical-aid team, protected by infantry, to Rwanda during the 1994 civil war, and helicopters to help put out a blaze at a Turkish arms factory in 1997.

Yesterday defence officials hailed the Nairobi mission as a debt of honour.

Kenya joined most African states in severing diplomatic ties with Israel after it invaded Egypt during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. But it still maintained economic links with Israel.

Hundreds of Israeli specialists worked on industrial and agricultural projects in Kenya; Kenyan managers and technicians studied in Israel.

In July 1976 Kenya secretly allowed Israeli transport planes to refuel in Nairobi after their rescue of hijacked airline passengers from Entebbe. Ehud Barak, now leader of the opposition Labour party, commanded the Nairobi back-up group.

US officials have new clues

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

have the facts straight," said Ms Albright.

Teams of investigators arrived in Nairobi on Saturday, and in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Amongst the evidence which they will search is a security camera on the roof of the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam. At least 11 Americans died in the Nairobi blast, including three servicemen, six civilian employees of the State Department and Pentagon, one employee of the Centres for Disease Control, and the son of the US Consul General, who was himself still missing yesterday.

Officials acknowledged that one key subject of the inquiries is Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire who has co-ordinated and financed a number of radical groups. "Clearly he is someone who has been involved in sponsoring terrorism," said Ms Albright. "He has made speeches in which he has been basically very anti-American." But she cautioned that it was still too early to make any definitive statements.

Newsweek magazine reports today that the Central Intelligence Agency had people associated with Mr bin Laden under surveillance in Kenya.

Equally, officials were wary of acknowledging the claims of responsibility made by groups

variously calling themselves the "The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Holy Places" and "The Liberation Army for the Islamic Sanctuaries." They sent claims to media in the Gulf and elsewhere saying that the attacks were aimed at removing the US forces from Saudi Arabia, freeing Islamic radicals held in Saudi Arabia, the US and Israel, and removing Israel from Jerusalem.

The other suspected group is Egyptian Jihad, a group that seeks the downfall of the regime in Cairo, and which has been linked to Mr bin Laden. It had issued threats against the US after US intelligence tip-offs led to the extradition of four of its members from Albania.

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Disability - on the agenda

D/EE
Department for Education and Employment

Anything to declare? If you're in the Lords then don't mention it

WHEN LORD Brabazon of Tara rose to respond to John Prescott's plans for transport reforms last month, no one in the House of Lords would have noticed anything amiss. Indeed, under the rules of the house the speech he proceeded to give was perfectly in order.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, the Conservatives' transport spokesman and a former transport minister, used part of his speech to press the case for the motorist. He did not mention that he had links with several transport organisations including the Institute of the Motor Industry, and the Vehicle Security Installation Board.

"Do the Government accept that higher taxes for motorists will affect disproportionately women, the elderly, disabled people and people in rural areas, who regard a car as a necessity and for all of whom safe and secure travelling by car is a major consideration?" he asked.

His speech did not breach the Lords' code for the registering of interests, which is largely voluntary. It does suggest that peers should mention such links when they rise to speak, but no action is taken when they fail to do so. In fact, unlike some other peers, Lord Brabazon mentions all his directorships but one - the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Transport Safety - in the register.

Lord Ezra, a former chairman of the National Coal Board and the Liberal Democrats' energy spokesman, also mentions all his directorships.

He lists a number of power companies, including Energy and Technical Services Group Plc, and told *The Independent* last week that he was scrupulous about mentioning them in debates even though most members knew his background.

"I have had a previous interest in energy for 50 years, but I always remind the house. It must be very boring," he said. However when Lord Ezra introduced a debate on energy policy on 4 June this year he did not explicitly declare an interest.

"While there is no shortage of energy at the present time and prices are relatively low, nevertheless, those of us who have been in the energy business all know that the situation can change very rapidly," he told the house.

Some peers choose not to register any interests. Among them is Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, a Conservative education and employment spokesman who is listed at Companies' House as being on the council of Milton Abbey, an independent school in Dorset. He does not register the unpaid post in the Lords, but in April this year he asked a series of

BY FRAN ABRAMS
AND ANDREW MULLINS

questions on the comparative exam results of schools in the state and independent sectors.

Others argue that they do not always need to declare their interests in debates. When he gave an impassioned speech in favour of offshore wind farms last October Lord Moyinhan, formerly the Conservative sport minister Colin Moyinhan and now a Foreign Affairs spokesman, declared an interest as president of the British Wind Energy Association. However, he did not mention the Enron Renewable Energy Corporation, a directorship of which is listed on the register.

He told *The Independent* that although Enron might consider running offshore wind farms in future it had not done so yet because the government had not set up a regime for running them.

"There are no offshore wind energy projects yet. When there are, we may or may not be interested," he said. "My own personal view and the way I apply myself is that both houses should be equally rigorous," he added.

Baroness Miller of Hendon, who speaks on health, trade and industry and the environment for the Conservatives, does not list any directorships in the register of interests. However, she is listed at Companies' House as holding investments in Caverwell Property Company and in Multrex Securities, another property development company. She is also listed as having a directorship in Benmill Property Company, a firm of consultants.

In March this year Baroness Miller asked a question about the Landlord and Tenant Act, followed by another in May. She also asked a question in March about business tenancies.

Peers say they use their judgment on which interests to register. Lord Holme, the Liberal Democrats' Northern Ireland spokesman, registers directorships of RTZ, the mining company, and of CRA Ltd but did not mention Brasseys, a defence publisher which he has recently sold out of. He mentioned every interest that might be relevant to his work, he said, but peers needed to earn a living.

"There seems to be an assumption that the Lords' still consists of a lot of hereditary toffs who live off coal mines and estates," he said.

Baroness Hamwee, the Liberal Democrats' local government, housing and planning spokeswoman, declares her post as a Richmond-upon-Thames Councillor and her job as a solicitor. She said she had seen abuses of members' interests in the chamber.

PEERS WHO DO NOT ALWAYS MENTION THEIR INTERESTS



Baroness Miller of Hendon

Appointed a Life Peer in 1993 by John Major, Baroness Miller chooses not to register any directorships in the Lords Register of Interests. Companies' House records list two property development companies and a property consultancy among her directorships, along with investment companies.



Lord Moyinhan

Best known as Colin Moyinhan, the Conservative Minister for Sport between 1997 and 1999, he now speaks on Foreign Affairs for his party in the House of Lords.

Lord Moyinhan lists interests in a number of energy companies, and has worked as an international energy consultant. When he made a speech promoting offshore wind farms, he declared his presidency of the British Wind Energy Association but not a directorship of a company which might bid to run offshore wind farms if the government allows them to go ahead.



Lord Parkinson

The Conservative Party Chairman does not list any directorships in the Register of Lords' Interests. Lord Parkinson, who will stand down from his current job later this year, has not spoken often in the House of Lords since the election. However, Companies' House records show that he holds directorships in two mobile phone companies and in Planet Online Ltd, which provides Internet services.



Lord Ezra

A former chairman of the National Coal Board, Lord Ezra has spent 50 years in the power industry. He still has interests in a number of power companies, and speaks on energy policy for the Liberal Democrats.



Lord Brabazon of Tara

Lord Brabazon, a former Conservative transport minister, now speaks on transport for his party in the House of Lords. He lists a number of transport groups including the National Gas Vehicles Association, the Vehicle Security Installation Board and the Institute of the Motor Industry among his interests in the register. He does not mention that he is a board member of the Parliamentary Council on Transport Safety.



Lord (David) Salisbury

Lord Salisbury resigned all his directorships in accordance with the ministerial code of conduct when he became a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry last month. Before that he listed his main interest, in the Salisbury's supermarket group, but did not mention Castichove Ltd, a retail and wholesale firm, or Diatch, a management consultancy.

Armed robbers target 'softer options'

BY JASON BENNETTO

ARMED ROBBERS are switching from banks and security vans to target 24-hour supermarkets because they are considered a "softer option", a senior detective has disclosed. Car criminals are also changing their tactics and stealing high-value vehicles by trailing the owners as they drive home and snatching the keys as they park.

The new crime trends follows a decline in the number of traditional armed robberies. This has been linked to better security measures in banks, building societies, and security vans, combined with an increase in rapid response armed police units, and improved detection.

The robbers have been attracted by the relatively poor security measures at out-of-town supermarkets and the new range of high-value goods, such as designer perfumes and clothes, on sale.

Det Supt Christopher Brightmore, head of proactive crime operations for north-west London, explained: "Most of the most senior criminals used to be involved in armed robbery. But that's all changed - robberies on banks, building societies and security vans have dropped by 50 per cent in the past five years..."

"The criminals have not gone away. They have gone for softer options, particularly big supermarkets and also betting shops, travel agents, petrol stations and off licences."

The supermarkets, some of which are open 24 hours and are built on greenfield sites, often carry expensive stocks, especially designer clothes, perfumes, cigarettes, and alcohol.

"There's evidence they are being targeted by robbers."

The decline in the number of "old-style" robberies is reflected in Scotland Yard's figures which show that there were 175 bank and building society robberies in the Metropolitan police area in 1997 compared with 259 the previous year.

Scotland Yard's Flying Squad has proved so successful at driving the number of armed robberies down that they have expanded their work to include other forms of crime including "steaming" gangs who rush into shops, trains and building societies and steal goods at speed before fleeing. Det Supt Brightmore also disclosed that the improvement in car security had led to thieves switching tactics.

He said: "Rather than stealing them off the streets there have been incidents where they followed the owner home and attacked them in the drive way."

Foreign Office review to help women get top jobs

ROBIN COOK has ordered a review of Foreign Office rules as part of an initiative designed to put more women into senior posts.

Determined to drive out the old-fashioned image which has often put off women thinking of applying for diplomatic posts, he has asked officials to consider the introduction of more flexible working conditions.

This summer's new intake of 23 "fast-track" graduates is more than 50 per cent female. But the Foreign Secretary believes there is still a long way to go. Out of 145 ambassadors and high commissioners in the service, just six are women. Of those only one, the Dublin ambassador Veronica Sutherland, is married.

One of the problems the department faces is that until 1972 its female staff were ex-

pected to leave work when they got married. Because officials had to spend many years in post before reaching the most senior positions, some of those women might now have been ambassadors.

Foreign Office sources say the figures on this year's intake are not the only encouraging signs. One in five of those on the Diplomatic Service's grade five - the rung below senior management level - is now female, compared with one in 10 a decade ago.

Although Foreign Office staff, both men and women, can take career breaks of up to five years they come back into their jobs at the same level at which they left. That means women who take time out to have families often return to find that

their colleagues have left them behind.

Now it is being suggested that staff could earn credits for the experience they get while they are away, including that of raising a family. Robin Cook has asked his personnel and policy staff to conduct a review of career breaks to see if they can be used to help women return to work and continue their careers. "The Foreign Secretary wants to ensure we have a system where people don't lose out by taking time out," one source said. "Women are being unfairly disadvantaged by being the only person who can give birth."

Officials at the Foreign Office acknowledged that there were cultural factors at work. Few female diplomats had husbands who are prepared to give up their jobs and travel to

postings with them, although Ms Sutherland's husband, an academic, was able to do so.

In a world in which both partners tended to work it was difficult for any diplomat, male or female, to take a spouse abroad with them, they said. The department did try to help diplomats' husbands and wives to find employment and to post husband and wife teams who both worked for the Foreign Office abroad together.

Britain's six women ambassadors and high commissioners are Maeve Fort, High Commissioner in South Africa, Rosemary Spencer, Ambassador to The Netherlands, Glynn Evans, Ambassador to Chile, Barbara Hay, Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Jessica Pearce, Ambassador to Belarus, and Veronica Sutherland.



William Leeson: Too ill to visit his son in Singapore

New cancer blow for Leeson family

THE FATHER of cancer-stricken Nick Leeson - the rogue trader jailed in Singapore for causing the collapse of Barings Bank - has revealed that he is also suffering from the disease. William Leeson, 58, says he is too ill to go to see his son and wants the authorities in Singapore to allow him to serve the remainder of his prison sentence in Britain.

It is the third time that cancer has struck the family. Mr Leeson, who lives in Watford, was last year diagnosed with the same type of blood cancer that killed his wife, Anne, in 1987.

Mr Leeson had tried to stop his jailed son finding out that he was ill but his other son Richard, 29, told him during a visit to Changi Prison in Singapore at Christmas. Mr Leeson senior was told of his son's

BY DIANA BLANIRIS

illness last Wednesday. "I couldn't believe it," he was reported as saying yesterday. "Now it is slowly sinking in... Nick has got to fight and Nick will fight. He is a lot like his dad and mother in that respect. He will fight it. But it would make life so much easier for us if he was in prison over here."

Nick Leeson, 31, was jailed for six and a half years in 1995 after bringing down Barings Bank with his illegal dealing which caused losses of £860m. He was diagnosed as having colon cancer last week and has been moved out of prison to a secure hospital ward.

His lawyer has made an application for him to be allowed to return to Britain on medical and compassionate grounds.

Mars rock to fetch astronomical sum

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

A DESERT prospector is set to become a millionaire as British scientists prepare to announce today that a meteorite found in the Sahara desert came from Mars.

The announcement will make the 2.2kg (4.8lb) rock only the 13th ever confirmed as coming from the Red Planet, out of 20,000 extra-terrestrial rocks collected worldwide. The rarity and scientific value of such finds has pushed their auction price up to roughly \$1000 (\$620) per gram - making this one worth about £1.2m.

The find will also help to fuel the debate over whether life ever arose on our nearest planetary neighbour, and provide extra impetus for a fresh space mission to it.

The Planetary Sciences Research Institute, a British team specialising in meteorite chemistry, has been examining tiny fragments taken from the 2.2kg (4.8lb) meteorite at the Open University over the past few days. "There is global scientific interest in the test results," said an Open University spokesman, who said the confirmation could help to "unlock the secrets of Martian climatic history and provide evidence of conditions capable of supporting life."

Professor Colin Pillinger, the university's expert in the field, has led the investigation, which analyses the ratios of isotopes - chemicals with the

same atomic constituents but different weights - in the samples. This provides a characteristic "fingerprint" of the rock's source.

Meteorites fall to Earth from beyond the atmosphere, but can originate from any part of the solar system or even beyond it. The other Mars meteorites were knocked off that planet millions of years ago, probably by a glancing asteroid impact. They then drifted in space before being pulled to Earth by gravity.

Only by checking their isotopic composition can scientists determine where they came from.

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Match 5 plus bonus ball	26	£118,052	£2,964,040
Match 5	1,012	£1,458	£1,475,496
Match 4	53,683	£80	£4,294,640
Match 3	1,001,551	£10	£10,015,510
TOTALS	1,056,272		£24,746,426

Total Sales including Inland and Wednesday Draw: £56,548,931.

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Joe 11/10/1998

Glow-worms go dark all over Britain



GLOW-WORMS, the summer countryside's tiny points of light, may be declining because increased road lighting is confusing the male insects when searching for the glowing females.

Alan Stewart, a research scientist at the University of Sussex, is to study the theory under laboratory conditions and in doing so may uncover some of the secrets of one of Britain's best-loved, though now least-seen, wild creatures. Although there are few hard statistics available, anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that the pea-sized glowing lights that shine out mysteriously from hedgerows and tufts of grass on summer nights are now missing from many sites where once they were found. A number of reasons have been put forward for their decline, from loss of habitat to increased use of insecticides, but the growth in "light pollution", from street and road lighting and the background lighting in the sky from built-up areas, has also been suggested.



Alan Stewart: Turning the spotlight on glow-worms

The insects are strictly nocturnal and the female, with no wings, is dependent on her luminous tail to attract a flying male. It is known that glow-worms flourish best in very dark places and one theory is that more light in the sky confuses the signal.

Dr Stewart, a lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at Sussex, has received a grant from the British Ecological Society to test it. He has already been able to simulate the female's tiny but radiant rear in a darkened test chamber in his laboratory at Brighton with LEDs - the light-emitting diodes found as the on-off indicators in most household electronic equipment.

"The males flew down to the light, crawled all over it and even tried to mate with it," Dr Stewart said, with a certain satisfaction.

He has spent this summer's short glow worm season - from when the insects emerge in June until about now, when the successful females have mated - establishing what light wavelengths the insects respond to, and has found them

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

attracted by a range from yellow to various shades of green.

Next year, again under laboratory conditions, he will try to establish if the responses are affected by different background lighting, such as typical street lights might provide.

His practical research difficulty is obtaining the male insects, but Sussex is perhaps better sited for that than any other British university, sitting as it does at the foot of the South Downs, which harbour fairly numerous glow worm colonies.

"We have found that if in the laboratory we use males which have already mated, they will still respond to artificial light but their ardour is somewhat diminished," he said.

This summer an attempt is being made to start a proper statistical picture of glow-worm populations by the Wildlife Trust for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The trust is about to complete a detailed survey at 11 of its nature reserves.

At Dancersend nature reserve in the Chiltern beechwoods between Tring and Wendover, glow-worms were still visible on Friday night - just. The warden, Mick Jones, went hunting with his daughter Polly and found one last, hopeful female, a tiny point of green light in a moonlit wildflower meadow. It was a magical sight.

"That may well be the last of the season, although we've had up to 50 on some nights," he said.

The glow-worm, *Lampyris noctiluca*, is a beetle and member of the firefly family. The organs in the adult female's tail produce light by oxidising a compound called luciferin which is then reflected by minute crystals. On a dark night it can be seen 50 yards away.

Its beaming behind is not its only remarkable trait, however. The larvae spend two years feeding on snails, into which they inject a paralysing fluid. "Then they suck up the contents of the snail through their mandibles," said Robin Scagell, one of Britain's leading glow-worm experts. "Once one's started gobbling, the rest of the gang go in. You find 20 or so tiny larvae all wriggling inside a snail shell. They have a whale of a time in a snail."

Mr Scagell has a warning for those encountering the tiny lights on a warm summer's night.

"As soon as they're mated, the female starts to climb back into her daytime hiding place and puts her light out. So if you see a glow worm glowing, it's a virgin female," he said.

"There's always the risk that people will see one and take it home and think it will produce lots of baby glow worms for next year - but of course it won't."



Polly Jones on the glow-worm's trail in the Chilterns, and (above left) one of the tiny creatures glows to call a mate Adrian Dennis

WHAT MAKES THEM SHINE?

A GLOW-WORM is far more efficient at generating light than a human. It even involves recycling.

In an example of bioluminescence - light production by living things - these tiny animals start with a chemical called luciferin, a waste by-product of their own chemistry. This is then combined in the cell with the enzyme luciferase, and molecules of oxygen and ATP the molecule that is the cell's engine.

Together they undergo a series of reactions which lead to energy being given up and emitted from the glow-worm's abdomen as photons of greenish light.

The process is amazingly efficient: compared to a light bulb, which only turns about 10 per cent of the incoming energy into light, this natural process is roughly 95 per cent efficient.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Police probe into Yard gun death

POLICE ARE preparing to question the colleagues and relatives of a senior anti-terrorist officer, who died at the weekend from a gunshot wound, in an attempt to determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

A superintendent has been appointed to investigate the death of Detective Inspector John Watt, who is thought to have shot himself in the head at the start of his shift at New Scotland Yard in central London on Saturday.

The 40-year-old officer, originally from Scotland, had been with the Metropolitan force for 21 years.

The Westminster coroner, Dr Paul Knappman, who will receive a copy of the Scotland Yard investigation, is expected to open an inquest within the next few days.

A post-mortem examination showed the officer, a married man with no children, died from a single gunshot wound to

the head. It is understood he had not been under any internal investigation.

Insp Watt was alone in the armoury when colleagues heard a shot and went to investigate. A gun was found near the body. Police sources have confirmed that there was no foul play. "DI Watt died from a single wound to the head and that wound was self-inflicted," said one source.

The officer, from south-west London, had spent 18 months with the Anti-Terrorist Branch, one of the most prestigious and pressurised of the specialist detective forces in the Met. Members of the branch have to conceal their identities for fear of terrorist reprisals, are trained to carry firearms.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Bunn, operational commander of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said: "This is a terrible, tragic death. We are devastated. Our thoughts are with his family."

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Deposit %	30%	30%
Amount Financed	£5,472.00	£7,920.00
36 Monthly Repayments	£152.00	£220.00
Total Amount Payable	£7,833.65	£11,336.33
APR %	0.0%	0.0%

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Where Wordsworth once walked, the drug dealers and pushers now stalk the young



BY PAUL LASHMAR
AND ESTHER LEACH

THE LAKE DISTRICT is the last place you would associate with a drugs epidemic. But, according to local drug counsellors it is awash with cheap brown heroin.

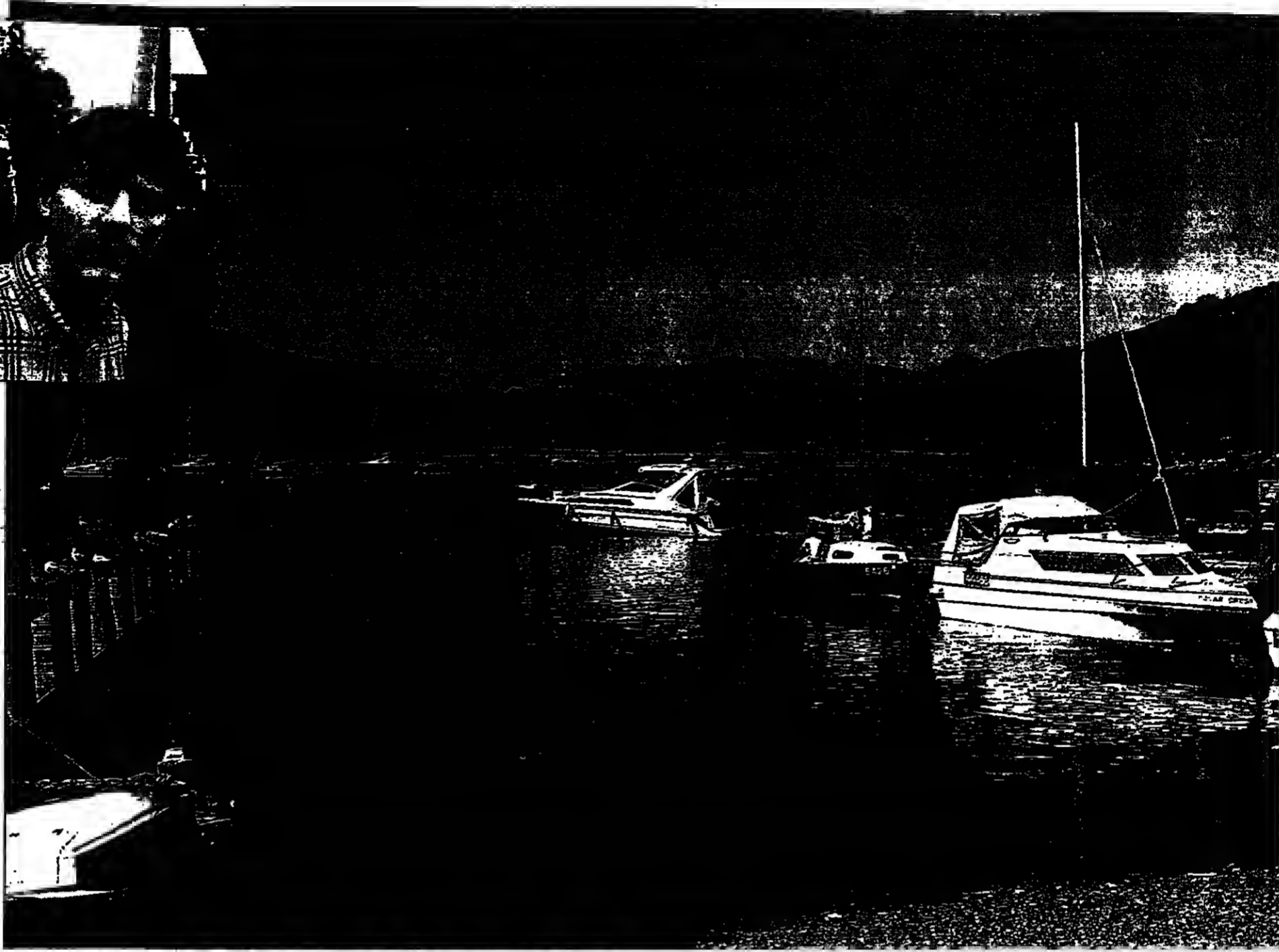
The figures are startling - 33 drugs-related deaths in the South Lakes area in the past three years, 500 addicts hooked on heroin and amphetamines. And that may only represent the tip of the iceberg. As drug action co-ordinator Sean McCollum, pointed out, these are only the people who have come forward: "There are many more out there who don't come to us."

The figures give haunting reality to research published last week by the Home Office, and first revealed by *The Independent* last month, which showed that heroin use is spreading from the inner-cities into rural areas.

Indeed drug experts believe it is no exaggeration to say that Britain is on the brink of second heroin epidemic aimed at a new and younger group of users including more middle-class teenagers.

Cumbria is listed as one of the areas that has suffered a recent heroin outbreak. It is the kind of trend which will cause major concern in a rural area not experienced in dealing with such problems.

Coroner Ian Smith, whose court covers the South Lakes area, expressed his concern. He said of the deaths: "Many of these are methadone and a few heroin. There has been a



The waterfront at Ambleside in the South Lakes area, which has experienced a huge rise in drug abuse. Top left: Barry, a former addict, and Helen, his peer group counsellor

black market in methadone in the area. With the help of local doctors and chemists we have instigated a scheme where methadone is only supplied under very strict supervision."

In a recent report, Mr Smith said that the numbers of recent drug deaths were up "three-fold" on the figures for the early 1990s.

Paul Crossley, of the Barrow-based, Furness Drug and Alcohol Concern, said: "Heroin is easily available in the South

Lakes area. It is becoming the drug of first choice. We have had a dramatic increase in the numbers of drug users coming to see us, especially those who use heroin. It's not just Barrow but spreads right across the most remote areas."

Furness Drug and Alcohol Concern says the number of contacts with people has increased from 49 in May to 56 in June to 75 last month. "About a third are people with heroin problems. The advantage of

heroin to young people is its cheapness and hideability," Mr Crossley said.

"We mirror the national problem but it is twice as bad, I would say, as in London. The North-west has just about the highest heroin rate of use in the country. We are not as bad at Liverpool but it is heading that way."

There have even been suggestions that some of the heroin is being smuggled ashore on the isolated beaches on the

coast between Barrow and the Scottish border.

Other local sources say heroin use has not yet reached epidemic proportions in the area. The police are more cautious, although there were a series of drugs raids in the town last week.

Superintendent Steve Murray, of Barrow Police, says that there is a growing heroin problem and the area reflects national trends. Chief Inspector Andy Bell, of Kendal Police, holds a similar view.

Barrow police are also trying a new initiative referring

those arrested for drug offences for immediate treatment. Normally, those arrested await social service reports before being offered treatment for drug problems. "We are trying to nip the problem in the bud," said a police spokeswoman.

Big city battle comes to the Lakes

IN BARROW, they are now adopting methods of coping with drugs normally only seen in places with large inner-city areas such as Glasgow and Liverpool.

High street chemists are dispensing the heroin substitute methadone, while counselling has been widened and drastically increased among the drugs support groups. There are also fears that dealing in drugs is taking place in the area's schools.

Unlike major cities, there are not the pubs and clubs in Barrow through which drugs are sold. Instead it is far less visible, distributed through a network of known houses, while pills such as ecstasy are readily available at parties, as are cannabis and amphetamines.

Barry, 16, is a trainee chef and ex-addict. He was a user who asked for help with his psychological addiction to cannabis, speed and ecstasy. He moved from a broken family home in Manchester to a children's home in Carlisle when he was 14 and is now undergoing peer counselling, a new initiative introduced by the Cumbria Alcohol Advisory Service (Cadas) to help young addicts who mistrust older people.

He said he had been introduced to Cadas by a youth worker on the Practical Alternatives to Crime scheme. "I got sick of being dependent on drugs. I couldn't do anything without them. I couldn't even go to sleep without taking something. I got sick of being in and out of prison cells for stealing and possession of drugs."

ESTHER LEACH

Help needed for pre-teen addicts only 10 years old

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

A LEADING addiction expert warned of the heroin "disaster" hitting Britain unless greater priority was given to drug treatment programmes.

Dr Amal Beaini, a consultant psychiatrist, appealed to the Government to pour more resources into effective ways of weaning people off heroin.

Dr Beaini, a former NHS consultant who runs a group of detoxification clinics, said he was shocked by a Home Office report which said Britain could be on the brink of a new heroin epidemic involving children as young as 10.

Most of the new heroin users were aged 13 to 35, but a significant number were 14 to 16-year-olds. In some areas, children as young as 10 had been trying the class A drug.

The report added that heroin use was spreading out of the inner cities across the country

because of cheap and easily available supplies, with young people both smoking the drug and injecting it.

Dr Beaini said: "This is a horrifying new trend. Many of these youngsters are fooled into thinking heroin is just another recreational drug, but it's not. With heroin it's impossible just to experiment and people who do try it can be hooked after six weeks."

"We cannot stand by and watch this tragedy unfold. A co-ordinated approach is needed, and it must include publicly funded detoxification programmes that work. I would like to see the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Royal College of Psychiatrists working together in a joint venture to prevent this disaster."

Where detoxification pro-

grammes are publicly funded they usually rely on methods of switching addicts to the heroin substitute methadone.

But many patients cannot tolerate the withdrawal symptoms and drop out.

Dr Beaini has developed a no-methadone programme, called Detox 5, at three clinics in Yorkshire and London which is said to avoid most of the "cold turkey" symptoms.

Patients are given medication to tackle physical withdrawal symptoms such as muscle cramps and diarrhoea while sedated. Then a non-addictive opiate-blocking drug, naltrexone, is used to drive out the remaining heroin. After five days, 99 per cent of patients leave the clinic with their bodies clean of opiates, Dr Beaini says. Usually, however, the £3,300 treatment has to be paid for privately.

Roger Howard, chief executive of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, a charity which represents drug agencies, said:

"We know that on average people are having to wait 10 to 14 weeks to get access to treatment programmes, and various parts of the country have 'hot spots'. Generally most people would say the level of resources in the NHS and also through community care have been woefully inadequate."

Mr Howard said there were signs that the Government was beginning to realise the extent of the problem. The Comprehensive Spending Review had promised an extra £188m for tackling drug misuse over a three-year period, part of which would go to treatment programmes. But he warned: "It's not before time and long overdue, but it will probably be insufficient."

Co-op forced to change labels

BY GLENDA COOPER

A SUPERMARKET is changing labels on its food after a jury of ordinary shoppers judged them to be misleading.

The independently monitored initiative will see the Co-op re-label three products after the jury felt shoppers could misunderstand claims for the food. Co-op Spare Ribs were said to be 70 per cent meat but a customer said it was mostly bone. The jury said the label should read instead "Minimum 70 per cent meat (including bone)". The supermarket will also amend portion numbers on Co-op Strawberry Gateau, where 6-8 servings was felt to be unrealistic. Details of the Co-

op's Premium Cottage Pie did not make clear that the topping it was cheese powder mixed with breadcrumbs.

The action follows independent research last year which showed nine out of ten of consumers did not know a product described as being made from minced meats included mechanically separated chicken.

Nineteen complaints are detailed in a report of the jury's deliberations including four separate labelling issues on which the Co-op asked the jury for guidance. These will also result in new labelling policies.

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Kosovo rebels to adopt guerrilla tactics

THE KLA fighter looked tired and drawn as he emerged from the dense oak forest, his hiding place since the Serbian offensive in central Kosovo began.

BY PAUL WOOD
in Drenica, Kosovo

campaign may be their only military option.

Some village children had walked up the dusty hillside path to give him a bag of plums, his staple diet for the past three weeks. "This is just survival," he said. "I don't know what will we do next?" The leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army must be asking themselves the same question.

The Serbian offensive in the Drenica region of Kosovo is over, with just "mopping up operations" continuing, the authorities say. Serbian armoured vehicles have swept away the checkpoints which marked the beginning of what ethnic Albanians called "free Kosovo". The towns and villages which were KLA strongholds are gutted and empty; the fighters and their families have taken to the surrounding hills.

"The KLA will do what they should have done from the start - wage a classic guerrilla campaign," said one ethnic Albanian source close to those who want the armed struggle to continue. The past few weeks have shown that in a pitched battle, KLA fighters armed with Kalashnikov automatic rifles are no match for Yugoslav armour and artillery; a guerrilla

If the KLA does wage a guerrilla campaign it will be faced with the problem of what to do with the civilian population. A massive humanitarian crisis is looming. With tens of thousands of displaced people in central Kosovo, many are living out in the open without clean water, and running out of food.

Over the hills and an hour's drive from the last metalled road, we came across one group of about 100 refugees. They had built shelters from oak saplings, weaving the branches together to keep the rain out. The women were cooking what little food they had on open fires, the men were digging to find clean water, but some of children had already drunk from a stagnant pool.

"I never thought I would see such things with my own



Ethnic Albanian children, refugees from the Drenica region, rest on a tractor trailer in the village of Cirez

Marco Di Lauro/AP

eyes," said Aslan Hoxha, a 40-year-old man who has been looking for his wife and six children ever since his village was overrun by Serbian forces two weeks ago. "They were attacking civilians with tanks. There was an old man cut in half by tank fire." The refugees said their houses had been set alight by the Serbian police to stop them returning. "Where is Nato?" was the question at every refugee camp.

Driving through the town of

Malisevo, the biggest town under KLA control before the offensive, every building on the main street had been destroyed by fire. Fallen power cables lay across the road and stray dogs wandered between burned out cars and rubble. Not one Albanian remained; the only inhabitants were Serbian police.

Serbian officials maintain that homes caught fire during the fighting, but one house was burning while we were in Malisevo, the flames leaping from

the roof and black smoke rising in a plume visible for miles. "The Serbian offensive has probably achieved its objectives," said one Western diplomat, "which is to regain control of the main roads and push the KLA into the hills."

Most of the villages of central Kosovo are 100 per cent Albanian and the Serbian police do not appear interested in trying to control them. The Government offensive was triggered when, last month, the

KLA attempted to seize the town of Orahvat, which does have a large minority of Serbs. "I defended my own house," said Velimir Vitosevic, one of the town's Serb inhabitants and vice president of the local branch of the right-wing Serbian Radical Party. He said that at least 55 Serb civilians had been kidnapped by the KLA and an unnamed neighbour had been killed by a KLA sniper sitting in the state-owned general store which he

manages. Mr Vitosevic said he was happy to live with his Albanian neighbours - "they are my customers" - but not the "extremists" who he said wanted to destroy Serbs.

The international community is pushing for a peace plan based on autonomy for Kosovo within Yugoslavia but any Serb or Albanian leader who accepts it will face accusations of betrayal from their own side. On the ground, both sides are preparing for a long war.

Burma detains foreign activists

BY PATRICK MCDOWELL
in Bangkok, Thailand

BURMA'S MILITARY regime detained 18 foreigners yesterday for distributing pamphlets the government said were aimed at inciting unrest.

The detentions came a day after the 10th anniversary of a nationwide uprising against military rule - which ended in a bloodbath - passed calmly without reports of disruption anywhere in the country.

Those held include six US citizens, three Thais, three Malaysians, three Indonesians, two Philippines nationals and one Australian, a government official said in a statement.

The ad hoc coalition of pro-democracy organisations that sent the activists released the name only of Jaran Dithachai, a political science professor at Bangkok's Rangsit University, pending notification of the families of the others held.

Annelyn Deluna, a coalition member, said that all the activists sent to Myanmar had been arrested. They were handing out "goodwill messages" supporting human rights and democracy and urging people to remember the uprising 10 years ago.

"We thought there were six who reached the airport, but it seems that the last time they were seen they were being brought to an office in the airport," Deluna said. None appeared to have been aboard the day's last Thai Airways flight from Myanmar, Deluna said. She was hopeful they would be deported Monday.

The government statement said that 18 foreigners "were apprehended attempting to incite unrest in Yangon."

"Foreigners who were distributing the pamphlets in downtown Yangon were reported to the police by citizens and taken to police stations for questioning and are being detained while the investigation continues," the statement added.

Clinton takes to the trail but has nowhere to run

A WEEK before he is due to give evidence on his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, Bill Clinton is planning to do what he does best: go on the campaign trail.

The President is due to set off today on a tour that will take him across the country: to Louisville in Kentucky, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Milwaukee. Mr Clinton may be under

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

attack in Washington, but he is still at very high levels in the opinion polls, and he will attend six fund-raising events. A spokesman said yesterday that it was possible that the African embassy bombings might change the timing of the trip.

The Democrats face a tough

time in this November's midterm Congressional elections, and in a number of elections for state governor. They could see the Republicans winning further seats in both the House and Senate, both of which they already dominate.

Mr Clinton will also be aware that the tour will keep him away from prying questions about his testimony. There has

been great speculation about whether he will change his previous statements that he did not have a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky, a former White House trainee. She, apparently, told a grand jury in Washington last week that he did. And Time magazine reports today that Linda Tripp gave independent counsel Kenneth Starr a notebook detailing Ms Lewinsky's

affair. Ms Lewinsky went to Ms Tripp, who claimed to be a friend, for solace, and she responded by taping their conversations and by taking shorthand notes which she handed over to the authorities. Mr Clinton may decide that, in advance of his testimony, he should speak to the public about the affair, perhaps confessing to the relationship in an

attempt to clear the air. If past evidence is any guide, leaks will ensure that a version of his testimony is in any case quickly presented to the press after he speaks next week by live video link to the grand jury. A mea culpa strategy poses enormous risks to the President, however, since it would mean that he did not tell the truth when he spoke earlier.

The embassy bombings temporarily shifted the media focus away from wall-to-wall coverage of Ms Lewinsky and the President, but the weekend discussion programmes more devoted most of their time to the issue. Mr Clinton's radio address to the public on Saturday and his appearance at the White House on Friday showed once again that he is

without equal when it comes to such occasions: he was dignified, sympathetic and collected.

"No matter how long it takes or where it takes us we will pursue terrorists until the cases are solved and justice is done," he said, adding that the US was a target for terrorism precisely because "we have unique leadership responsibilities in the world".

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Childhood lost in Pakistan jails

BY JASON BURKE
in Lahore

THOUSANDS OF children in Pakistan are being held in prison for up to a year waiting for trials at which only 10 per cent are found guilty.

Often arrested for minor offences such as vagrancy or petty theft, they are usually kept in adult prisons to await trial, suffering appalling conditions and severe sexual and physical abuse. Some are imprisoned for two or more years before being released when the case against them collapses on reaching court.

In Lahore District Jail 150, child prisoners are packed into one, two-storey cell block. One of them, Habib, nine, is accused of murdering his cousin. He has been in prison for 10 months.

The evidence against him is almost non-existent. According to Habib's father, Mohammed, he is the victim of a false allegation made as part of a family feud. Standing less than 4ft tall in his bare feet, with a dirty vest barely hiding a skinny frame, he does not look much like a murderer. His trial might not be for several years.

Even minor cases take months to reach court. Next to Habib squats 12-year-old Mohammed Siddiq, who was arrested for the possession of heroin in February. His lawyer says the drugs were planted by police after the boy's gang failed to pay the right bribe to the right officer. Another boy, Kamel, was 11 when arrested for allegedly stealing 2,000 rupees (£30) from a neighbour in the slum district of Shera Kot



Many street children end up in prison with no one to bail them out. John Moore/AP

a year ago. Again, his lawyer says, there is virtually no evidence against him.

At the moment there are estimated to be 3,200 child prisoners in Pakistan's rotting jails. More than a quarter have spent six months awaiting trial, several hundred have been in jail for more than a year. One child has spent three years and four months waiting for his case to come to court.

The government is beginning to realise that incarcerating children for lengthy periods without trial does little for its international image. The minister with responsibility for prisons, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, was a political prisoner himself and does appear genuinely committed to some kind of reform. Last month, in a little reported but unprecedented move, he obtained the release

of more than 100 children awaiting trial for vagrancy.

"I know what prison is like so I have some sympathy," he said. "The prison population in this country is 10 times what it should be and we are always looking at ways of cutting it down. We don't want these children in prison either."

The minister says the problem is that many of the children are from the streets or from poor or broken homes. "Basically there is no one to stand bail for them. The rich can afford to buy their freedom. But just because there is no one to put up the money for a poor prisoner then I can't just order their release," he said.

No one is likely to get Habib released soon. His bail was set at 50,000 rupees (£800) - an almost impossible figure for a poor family to raise in a coun-

try where the average annual cash income is around £300. Even Kamel's father, Nawaz, with his son on a relatively minor theft charge, had found it impossible to get 5,000 rupees.

Many of the 10,000 or so children arrested and jailed each year in Pakistan simply do not have anyone on the outside remotely interested in helping them.

Usually juveniles are kept with the adult prisoners. Unsurprisingly, sexual abuse by other inmates or prison staff is common. The human rights group Amnesty International says that last year 63 child prisoners were sexually assaulted by prison officers. The true figure is almost certainly far higher. There are reports of prison officers supplying child prisoners in commercially run brothels and evidence that

prison staff supply drugs to young prisoners and encourage their habits.

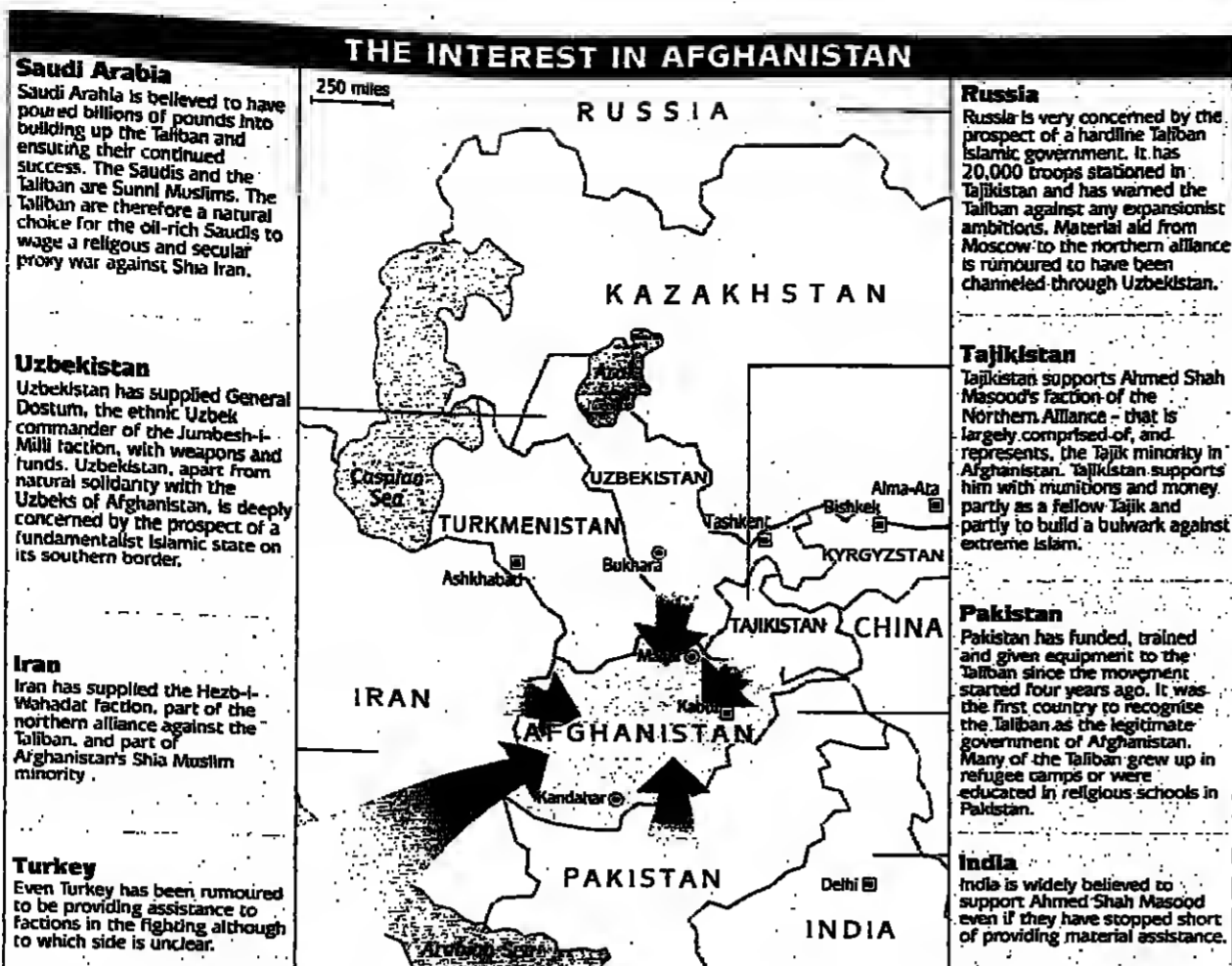
One child prisoner in Lahore District Jail, a self-confessed heroin addict, said that, though there is a hospital with treatment facilities on site, he has never been allowed to visit it.

"If it is getting hard to get drugs in the city people actually head for the prisons," said Jan Nisar, a senior defence lawyer in Lahore. "In my experience everything is available there - heroin, hashish, whatever you want. If the inmates don't have it then the staff will."

But it will be hard for Mr Ahmed, who heads the recently created Prison Reform Committee, to make any progress. It is a fundamental tenet of Islamic law that individuals are responsible for their actions on reaching puberty and the strong Muslim fundamentalist lobby in Pakistan make it difficult for judges to be lenient.

For the same reason a juvenile justice bill, which outlaws the death penalty, the use of fetters, whipping or amputation for children, has been waiting for parliamentary approval since 1995. Though international conventions on children's rights have been signed and ratified their demands have been ignored.

Hena Gilani, a senior lawyer and human rights campaigner, said that the problem is merely a lack of political will. "The legislation is there but not implemented. A rapid system of juvenile courts could easily be set up. It is just that no one bothers. It is an embarrassment to the government and to every citizen in Pakistan."



Taliban army seals fate of siege city

IN THE end it was a typically Afghan victory. With the defenders of Mazar-e-Sharif split by bloody factional squabbling, it was easy for the Taliban army to persuade two commanders to change sides and, like figures in classical mythology, open the gates to the city to the besiegers.

Though spokesmen for the Northern Alliance were claiming yesterday that the city - the only major town held by the opposition - had yet to fall entirely to the Taliban, their victory looked complete.

Taliban troops were reported to be pressing north towards the strategic port town of Herat, on the Oxus, and south towards the bases of the Northern Alliance's Hizbe-e Wahadat faction in Bamyan province. Some sporadic fighting was reported in Mazar itself but independent sources confirmed the Taliban's claim that most of the city was quiet, that all the major strategic sites, including the vital airport, were in their hands and that 300 captured Taliban fighters, held in Mazar, had been released.

The Taliban felt sufficiently confident of the situation in the north to launch a new attack yesterday on the Northern Alliance's position's 15 miles north of Kabul. The results of the day's fighting, which involved tanks and heavy weapons, were unclear.

The Taliban's claims of significant advances were denied by the opposition, which said that at least one Taliban tank had been blown up by a land mine and the attack repulsed. Last night artillery fire along the frontline was continuing.

Mazar-e-Sharif, which was the headquarters of the Northern Alliance, has fallen to the Taliban twice before. In May last year a commander switched sides and allowed thousands of Taliban troops into the city. He then reverted to his original allegiance and the Taliban occupying force was massacred. In September a second Taliban force took most of the city again before being ejected after several days of street fighting.

This time, however, experts agree the Taliban, made wary by previous experiences, are in a far stronger position. A campaign which has taken them 200 miles across the north-western plains of Afghanistan in under a month appears not to have over-extended their supply lines and has gained them airstrips from where their jets have been able to provide critical support. The situation of the Northern Alliance, now led by the veteran commander Ahmed Shah Masood, is looking very weak.

With Mazar and most of Afghanistan's northern and western border in Taliban hands, their main supply routes have been cut and crucial airstrips lost. Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the three countries which have been providing the most of the Northern Alliance's munitions, weapons and funds, will now find it hard to maintain the same level of support.

However, given the way Afghanistan is split, the continued involvement of all three nations, as well as several other regional powers, is assured and fighting is likely to continue. The Taliban represent the majority of Afghans - Sunni Muslims from Pathan tribes.



A heavily armed Taliban militiaman ready to go into action yesterday

So it has attracted the support of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, both Sunni states with strong hardline Islamic loyalties. Pakistan has a substantial number of ethnic Pathans living within its borders.

The Northern Alliance comprises Afghanistan's ethnic and religious minorities such as Shia Muslims and Afghans of Tajik and Uzbek descent.

Iran, which is effectively run by Shia Muslim clerics, and Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have become increasingly involved in the war with the rise of the Taliban.

Iran is worried by developments and has been calling for a negotiated settlement. At the weekend the Iranian Foreign Minister implicitly attacked Pakistani and Saudi Arabian involvement, saying his country could not "allow the region's security to be jeopardised by the ambitions of other countries."

Russia has made clear its concerns by sending reinforcements to boost the 20,000 Russian troops already stationed in Tajikistan watching the border. Over the weekend the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister told the Taliban that Moscow will take steps to protect the southern borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Neither the Tajiks nor the Uzbeks merely acting out of ethnic solidarity. Uzbekistan's hardline President Islam Karimov, and the Tajik President, Imomali Rakhmanov, have accused the Taliban and Pakistan of allowing Islamic militants who are active in Central Asia to be trained on their soil. In Tajikistan a peace is holding after years of civil war between Muslim militants and the secular government. Both countries fear Taliban forces will attempt to link up with home-grown Islamic militant movements.

Kabila launches double offensive

PRESIDENT LAURENT Kabila's government said yesterday it had launched twin offensives against rebels and Rwandan soldiers in the east and west of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) and that fighting was taking place on both fronts.

The Information Minister, Didier Muzenghi, said the two sides were fighting in the region of the border town of Bukavu in the east and around the oil town of Muanda in the west. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Mr Muzenghi, who accused Rwandan and Ugandan troops of fighting on Congolese soil, said the government launched the counter-offensive on Saturday. He said sacked Congolese army chief, James Kabare, a Rwandan, was directing the rebels.

"We launched a counter-offensive in the east and in the west yesterday. Fighting is taking place in the Bukavu region. In the west, the rebels are surrounded in Muanda and at Kitona. There is now even fighting in the Muanda area," Mr Muzenghi said.

He said Rwandans on the western front, a strategic river corridor linking the capital, Kinshasa, to the sea, lacked appropriate weapons and vehicles.

Business sources said on Saturday that the Tutsi-led rebels in the west held Muanda, the garrison town of Kitona and the naval base of Banana. But they said there had been no reports of fighting.

Mr Kabila, who accuses Rwanda and Uganda of sending troops to fight alongside rebels from Congo's minority ethnic Tutsi community, acknowledged earlier that Bukavu and Goma in the east were in rebel hands.

Ethnic Tutsi soldiers, who spearheaded the bush war that brought Mr Kabila to power in May 1997, launched the latest revolt on 2 August in Goma, which is on the border with Rwanda.

Rwanda, whose Tutsi-led army helped propel Mr Kabila to power, and Uganda both deny involvement in the latest conflict.

Paris tries to revive the cream of café society

NEW STRATEGIES are being employed to entice Parisians back into the city's cafés. A 1995 study revealing the closure of 6,000 cafés every year due to lack of clientele has resulted in the opening of a chain of discount cafés. "Ah, ça ira" (That'll do nicely) and the promotion of Bistrot en Fête (Bistrot Festival) which seeks to reaffirm the place of the bistrot in French society.

The café has long been considered as the bastion of French life: its association with the glitterati of literary and artistic circles is legendary. "Without cafés there would have been no Sartre" - such was the devotion of the existentialist writer to his petit café, according to Boris Vian who also belonged to the literary group that frequented the Café Flore during the post-war years.

Jean-Paul Sartre was certainly spoiled for choice; there were 200,000 cafés in France by 1960. By 1995 the number had dropped to 50,000, prompting the press to report the imminent death of the café. Jean Biron, then director of the National Federation of Cafés, Brasseries and Discotheques said in *Le Monde*: "It is imperative that we find a way to save the café."

Wandering through the streets of Paris, one might wonder what all the fuss is about. Finding a café is rarely a problem. But to a trendy Parisian, the café is not simply a watering-hole, it is a reflection of social milieu. The café is as much a part of personal style as what you wear: you are where you drink. In the hip areas such as the Marais or Oberkampf, the streets are swelled with the ranks of "in" bars vying to attract customers. Many have "themes" ranging from cyber cafés, to a recently opened psychotherapy café, to the simply downright cool.

Drinks in such cafés don't come cheap. In a really chic establishment, a beer or a *café au lait* taken on the terrace can cost up to £2.50. It was with this in mind that Ah, ça ira was created at the Place de la Bastille. A sign above the door proclaims: "Ah, ça ira! Les prix révolutionnaires. Ici, on peut importer son manager." (Ah, that'll do nicely! Revolutionary prices. You can bring your own food). The concept is based on the British pub with counter service only. Beer, Ricard, coffee and soft drinks are sold for between 50 and 70 pence. The interior is reminiscent of certain fast food chains.

Benoît Boulanger, the manager of Ah, ça ira says: "We are the McDonald's of cafés, and proud of it. Our philosophy is discount. A family out for the day can't afford to pay £10 every time they sit down for a drink. They pay a quarter of this price if they come to us. This is what French cafés need to take on board. We want to bring back the people who had stopped going to cafés."

But whilst Ah, ça ira is clearly onto a winner as far as reducing the price of a cup of coffee is concerned, it cannot be said to provide much in the way of ambience. It would certainly not be frequented by any self-respecting café groupie.

It is the more traditional *café-bistrot* that has suffered most from the threat of closure. These are the *cafés au coin* (corner cafés) where service with a smile only materialises when you have proven yourself to be *fidèle* (faithful) to the establishment. The menu consists of staples such as *steak-frites*, *salade niçoise* and stomach-



Tourists at Sartre's old haunt, French Picture Library

turning *steak-tartare* (raw minced beefsteak served with a raw egg and tabasco).

Bistrot en Fête was conceived to support the owners of such cafés. Celebrations based in bistrot around France will take place on 25 and 26 September and include jazz concerts, Tintin evenings, *pétanque* competitions and debates. The organiser, Constance Perrin, says: "The aim of Bistrot en Fête is to affirm the place of the bistrot in society. Café owners have felt unmoved for some time. They are very aware of the importance of cafés in French history - this is quite a responsibility. We want to witness the importance of bistrot in the cultural and social heritage of the country."

Serge Mahé runs the traditional Friedland *café-brasserie* situated on the Boulevard Haussmann, a stone's throw from the Arc de Triomphe. He has been in the profession for 25 years, following in the footsteps of his parents. Mr Mahé believes that stability is finally being regained this year after some very difficult times. But he says there is no danger, and never has been, of the café becoming a thing of the past.

"There will always be cafés in France - they are firmly anchored in French society. If the cafés go there will be nothing left. Neighbours don't talk to each other any more - cafés provide a vital meeting place."

The problems faced by the café industry are reflections of changing social habits. "Trends come and go. At the moment the themed cafés are all the rage and young people are starting to flock back into cafés. But in a few years time the themed cafés will be thinking of new ways to diversify," adds Mr Mahé.

It is true that the long lunch break has been eroded. But cafés still constitute an important part of French life. And with the economy looking up, the future of the café looks secure.

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How bosses and workers pranged GM

IT USED to be said that what was good for General Motors was good for America. So what happens when the world's largest company suffers the longest and costliest strike in its history?

As dust settles from a 54-day stoppage that crippled production at 26 of GM's 29 North American plants and lost it \$2.3bn (£1.4bn), the answer appears to be that America has come out of it bruised but substantially healthy. For GM, however, it has proved a particularly damaging episode that only confirms its long and seemingly inexorable decline.

What began as a local dispute about productivity and investment at a metal-stamping plant in Flint, Michigan, spiralled into a showdown between GM and the United Auto Workers union - a showdown that both sides acknowledge produced only losers.

Dale Brickner, professor emeritus of labour and industrial relations at Michigan State University, said: "The two sides were like a couple of pre-pubescent kids shouting at each other in the playground." If the strike ran so wild, it was partly because of the size and bureaucratic clumsiness of General Motors. All it took was a UAW threat to call out its workers in other parts of America for the two sides' publicity machines to turn the threat into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Part of the problem too was an animosity and mistrust between the two sides that has dogged GM since the formation of the UAW during a sit-down strike in Flint in 1936.

But the key issue, which was in the background without becoming explicit, was GM's need to modernise and raise efficiency in the teeth of opposi-



Part of a consignment of 5,000 vans waiting to be shipped from the General Motors plant at Wentzville, in Missouri

tion from both the union and its own traditionally minded managerial ranks. Too many GM plants are old and inefficient and too many of its workers are on long-standing contracts that no longer reflect modern technology or working practices. Thus a highly trained parts maker is paid the same hourly wage as a low-skill assembly-

line worker. A ban on multiple tasks creates situations in which employees stand idle for several hours a day.

GM's strategy has been plain since the hi-tech, non-unionised Japanese came into the American market in the 1980s: to close inefficient plants, especially in unionised centres like Flint, and open ones with

non-militant labour forces. This devastated a number of Rust Belt cities in the 1980s. With the North American Free Trade Agreement, GM has moved much of its labour-intensive activities to Mexico, raising UAW suspicions that it wants to move out of the Rust Belt altogether. But that does not appear justified. Rather, the company

wants to stay in the Midwest, which has a vast market on its doorstep, while raising efficiency by contracting out parts manufacture and assembling cars as far as possible with robots. GM is little different in this ambition from its chief US rivals, Ford and Chrysler. But its entwined relationship with the UAW, and the inefficiencies cre-

ated by its size, have made transformation a longer and sneakier process. Instead of closing a plant outright and risking union confrontation, GM has tended to promise new investment in exchange for better productivity. In many cases workers have then achieved the new targets, despite their outmoded machinery, only to

find the investment is not forthcoming. "This is a company that reneges on its promises all the time. How are we supposed to trust them?" said Norm McComb, a UAW official at a metal-stamping division in Flint. GM accuses the UAW of failing to recognise economic reality and points to labour

strongholds like Flint as seedbeds of intransigence and inefficiency.

This strike was born of exactly such divergent viewpoints - a decision by GM to withdraw new investment and move stamping dies out of a metal fabrication plant in Flint, coupled with the union's failure to meet promised new production quotas. After 54 days, the dies were returned, the investment was recommitted and the union made the same old production pledges once again.

In many ways, GM and the UAW are two sides of the same coin, both committed to models and production methods that have long since gone out of style.

GM's clunky traditional models are no longer selling, and new models are coming off the assembly line too slowly to keep up with the competition.

Over the past 30 years GM's market share has dropped from 50 to 30 per cent, and, for all its downsizing efforts, it still has higher labour costs per vehicle than any other US company. The country has become inured to its woes, which helps explain how the strike has been viewed as little more than a blip in the economic boom, even though it is expected to shave half a percentage point off national growth for the second quarter.

Next year GM is set for another showdown with the UAW when it renegotiates its national labour contract. Although there are hopes the futility of the past two months might avert another bloody conflict, nobody is counting on it. "GM is claiming communication with the union has been re-established," a Flint union activist said. "I can tell you that is BS. We don't trust each other as far as we can spit."

Seven million Chinese watch rising Yangtze lap at their suburbs

TEAMS OF flood fighters were last night strengthening Wuhan's inner-city flood defences as the level of the Yangtze continued to creep higher.

Down on the city centre waterfront, trucks laden with sandbags were lined up along the most vulnerable part of the urban dyke, at Longwangmiao.

By TERESA POOLE
in Wuhan

Under a huge full moon, police patrols wandered by as labourers shovelled, carried and topped up the flood defences.

Walls of breeze blocks and sandbags now block what are normally gates on to the river. "This is the most dangerous

place," said a woman, with her two daughters. "Since we live just behind here, we are a little bit concerned and want to see what it is happening. We've had floods before, but it has never been like this before."

On the old colonial customs house, red paint marks show the levels of the previous high river levels: 1931, 1996 and, at

the top, 1954. By yesterday, the river was less than 40cm from the 1954 record, and this week it is due to climb further as a flood crest passes down the Yangtze, and another flows down the Han river, which merges with the mainstream at Wuhan.

At the weekend, officials decided to evacuate residents

from three vulnerable outlying parts of Wuhan.

In a further attempt to safeguard the industrial city of seven million, officials 90 miles upstream ordered secondary dykes at Jianli town to be destroyed, allowing about 800 million cubic metres of flood water to inundate 180 sq km.

It was the second time in

three days that Jianli's land had been purposefully flooded and some of the 50,000 local villagers "were reluctant to move," said the official Xinhua news agency. "It took local officials some time to persuade them," it added. Evacuees have been carrying whatever belongings they can manage and herding livestock out of the flood diver-

sion areas, but have been forced to leave most of their things behind.

Flood officials are increasingly willing to sacrifice rural areas to reduce the flow in the Yangtze mainstream. It was estimated that the latest Jianli dykes break would lower the Yangtze by 10 to 25cm. That should help compensate for

the latest flood crests. Fears about the impact of the surge brought the central government very close at the weekend to blowing a hole in the main Yangtze dyke upstream near Shashi city, after evacuating 330,000 people from the diversion area. In the end, water levels subsided slightly yesterday, postponing such a move.

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City where everything behaves differently

CITY LIFE LA PAZ

WE WERE flying at over 13,000ft when we hit the ground. I knew because Laurent, the French chap beside me, was showing me his mountain climber's altimeter at the time.

How did we survive? Because our wheels were down and the ground we hit was flat. It was the runway at Bolivia's El Alto airport - nearly two-and-a-half miles above sea level.

Inside the pressurised cabin all was well. But once I stepped into the airport passageway I began to do an impression of Billy Connolly doing an impression of a Glasgow drunk trying to eat a fish supper. I kept listing to the left, continually bumping off the passageway wall.

I wasn't the only one. Most of the passengers walked at a snail's pace to keep their balance. Some were taken by airport personnel to an "oxygen room" beside the baggage carousel, where they breathed into scuba-style oxygen tanks until they got used to the rarefied air.

El Alto serves La Paz, at 11,800ft one of the world's highest cities. And even though the capital lies more than 1,200ft lower than the airport - the road trip is a bit like sliding down a curving water chute - living in La Paz takes a bit of getting used to.

Strangers, and even Bolivians coming in from the lower cities, are usually hit with *soroche*, or altitude sickness. With the thinner oxygen levels, the heart and lungs must work much harder. Visitors have been known to drop dead, although the government likes to keep a lid on such cases or suggest some other cause. A Canadian died last year after flying in from the low-level city of Santa Cruz.

My wobbly arrival was an early symptom. Within hours I had a searing headache above



Bolivian dancers parade through the streets of La Paz

Victor Ruiz

the back of my neck. I'm in good shape but I was out of breath after getting up from a chair. The locals swear by *made de coca*, or tea made from coca leaves, with lemon juice squeezed in. It certainly helped me. The Incas, and later the Spaniards, used to provide coca leaf to miners to numb their aches and pains and allow them to work harder and longer. The *aculi*, or coca-chewing break, remains the Bolivian equivalent of the English tea break.

When my headache persisted on the third day, I cast aside my dislike for medications and took the locally recommended "Sorojchi Pill", which slows the heartbeat and induces deeper breaths. It did the trick and I was relatively normal by the fourth day. I learnt not to eat heavily or late at night - digestion takes longer - and to drink pint after pint of water to avoid dehydration. Also, to cut down on alcohol since high-altitude hangovers are a living hell.

And I learnt to walk slowly. La Paz is one big hillside and you don't see residents rushing

around. It's a bit like watching a film in slow motion.

But the *pacenos*, as the city's residents are known, are well used to the altitude and its effects. Walking up the central Prado avenue into the afternoon sun, almost everyone covers their face with a book or magazine to stave off the ultraviolet rays.

And take football. At this altitude, the ball flies faster and higher, bounces more, and is difficult to control. Combined with the extra strain on lungs and heart, it is no wonder foreign teams hate to come here.

Little Bolivia handed mighty Brazil one of its rare defeats in a World Cup qualifier here in 1983. Acclimatisation generally takes a day or two. The Brazilians had flown in just before the match, and they left exhausted.

Marathon runners, walkers, cyclists and boxers, on the other hand, regularly come here to train, testing their hearts and lungs to the limit so that performing at sea level seems like a cakewalk.

British residents complain that their tea never tastes quite the same as at home. This is because the water boils at 88C rather than 100C. On the other hand, fresh produce keeps longer outside the fridge, and there are few, if any, mosquitos or other pesky insects because of the cool, thin air. Reluctant passive smokers will be delighted to know that cigarettes left in ashtrays go out rapidly because of the lack of oxygen. For the same reason, there are few fires in this town. Locals like to joke about the idleness of the Fire Brigade, although its men often do fine work in mountain rescue.

Unlike most hillside cities in the world, the poor live in the heights while the wealthy build their houses down below, where there is more air to breathe. El Alto is surrounded by shanty towns, while the Zona Sur (Southern Zone), a couple of thousand feet lower down, is favoured by the rich, famous and representatives of Her Majesty's government.

PHIL DAVISON

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fear of millennium flying

FOUR IN TEN chief executives will not fly on 1 January 2000 because of millennium bug fears, but 98 per cent believe their own computer systems will be ready for the date change. A survey released today also shows that a quarter of chief executives believe some companies could go bust as a result of computer problems.

Four in five respondents thought UK industry as a whole would be ready but only a half had put contingency plans in place themselves. The survey, by Executives on Assignment, showed that executives were most worried about potential systems failures in production and accounting. Only a fifth of those questioned thought the Government's millennium bug awareness programme was good while a third rated it poor or inadequate.

Obuchi prepared to compromise



JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi (left), yesterday offered to compromise with opposition parties to ensure the swift passage through parliament of urgently needed legislation to revive the Japanese economy. Parliament begins debating the bills today, but their passage could be stalled if opposition parties unite to present alternative bills.

"We need to pass the legislation as quickly as possible by reaching some sort of compromise with opposition parties," Mr Obuchi said at a press conference in Nagasaki, where he was attending events to mark the 53rd anniversary of the atomic bombing there. The LDP's economic revival bills call for setting up a "bridge bank" which the government would use to take over failed banks.

Mayflower's Dennis bid imminent

MAYFLOWER, the acquisitive car components group headed by John Simpson, is poised to table its £252m cash bid for the fire engine and bus manufacturer Dennis, possibly as early as today. Weekend reports indicated that Volvo of Sweden was considering entering the bid battle, but it could face competition hurdles.

A combination of Dennis and Volvo would control up to 80 per cent of the bus chassis market in the UK. One possibility is that Volvo could back the existing agreed offer for Dennis from Heneleys, perhaps taking a minority stake. The Heneleys offer values Dennis at £196m.

Go-ahead for £220m rail freight link to Chunnel

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

MINISTERS are set to approve a £250m cash boost for a rail freight expressway, linking Scotland to the Channel Tunnel which could take 400,000 lorries off the roads.

Railtrack, the promoter of the scheme, met transport officials last Friday to discuss funding for the project and is understood to have been given the green light.

The £220m project will allow enlarged "piggyback" freight wagons to use the west coast main line, leading to a substantial reduction in the amount of freight moved by road.

Under the scheme, freight containers are uncoupled from their cabs and put on to specially-designed rail bogies.

The expressway will come into operation over the next five years and will require Railtrack, owner of the track, signalling and stations of the former British Rail, to widen tunnels and raise bridges on the lines used.

The project is part of an ambitious freight rail network planned by Railtrack. The aim is to triple the amount of freight traffic carried by rail over the next 10 years.

A key consideration will be

THE INVESTMENT bank Hambros was severely criticised yesterday by the Commons Public Accounts Committee for its part in the sale of the three railway rolling stock companies which had short-changed the taxpayer by £900m.

The report said the sale was deeply flawed; Hambros had failed to persuade bidders of the long-term potential of the companies.

Angel Trains, Porterbrook and Eversholt were bought by management buyout teams for £1.8m and then sold on for £2.7m within 19 months. The deals netted profits ranging from £15m to £33m for former British Rail managers who led the buyouts.

The MPs said such profits risked discrediting the whole privatisation process.

expanding the busy rail network in the North-east in order to draw freight from the region's roads. Railtrack executives have proposed a £100m scheme which could see lorry loads taken from Ireland to the Continent.

At present containers are unloaded on ports such as Liverpool and cross the country by road to be picked up at Hull. The route used by lorry

drivers is the M62. The motorway is so heavily used that it is congested for most of the day. More than 110,000 vehicles use the M62 daily, of which at least 27,000 are heavy goods vehicles.

Other parts of the scheme include upgrading rail routes to busy ports like Southampton. The most ambitious plans are reserved for the link joining the Channel Tunnel to Scotland.

Railtrack argues that the scheme is not commercially viable without government support. At present the annual rail freight grants budget runs to just £40m. Railtrack has offered to extract £10m a year from that pot for 10 years in order to recoup their spending.

Officials, however, want operators such as English Welsh Scottish (EWS) to guarantee that they will buy rolling stock to make use of the new lines. EWS was formed when 90 per cent of BR's freight business was sold to the American giant Wisconsin Central Transportation two years ago.

Railtrack says that the industry is keen to exploit the new opportunity presented by the "piggyback" scheme. Ministers want to reverse the historic decline of rail freight.

The share of goods carried by rail in Britain has withered steadily from 40 per cent in the 1950s to 6 per cent last year.

PIGGYBACK RAIL FREIGHT ROUTES



BOC ready to axe 1,000 jobs

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

BOC, the industrial gases group, is expected to unveil over 1,000 UK job losses along with its third-quarter results tomorrow as the Asian crisis and the strong pound forces the company to cut costs.

Analysts are expecting Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive for the last 18 months, to announce an acceleration of the company's restructuring programme started in May. Mr Rosenkranz is looking for cost savings of around £100m a year. Analysts expect him to announce a restructuring charge of well over £100m tomorrow.

In particular, the sharp slowdown in the semiconductor industry worldwide has hit BOC's vacuum technology division, BOC Edwards, one of the group's success stories. Edwards, based in Shoreham-by-Sea and Crawley, makes systems which supply the ultra-clean air required for semiconductor factories.

City sources are questioning whether Mr Rosenkranz, who has been with the group for 22 years, will have the stomach to cut back BOC Edwards, a division he has done much to build up himself.

Siemens' recent decision to scrap its giant semiconductor plant in North Tyneside is just one example of how the Asian downturn has hit the industry, which has enjoyed a roller-coaster ride of explosive expansion followed by cyclical contraction.

BOC refused to comment on City speculation yesterday, but it is understood that the company may be planning even more than 1,000 job cuts in the UK, and up to 4,500 around the world. Factory closures are also possible.

Under Mr Rosenkranz's drive to refocus the group, it sold the badly performing healthcare subsidiary Omnia for £40m this spring. The company said it would like to spend the money on a European acquisition, but has not found a suitable target yet, and may hand the cash back to shareholders via a buy-back.

The company's distribution side, which services Marks & Spencer, is also a possible candidate for sale, but there are no immediate plans to offload it.

Mr Rosenkranz is insisting on the need for a clearer strategy at BOC, and over the last 18 months has reversed the decentralisation of the management structure. In gases, for instance, which accounts for four-fifths of the group's business, he has created a 14-person management board, which includes all the regional gases directors.

Hole-in-the-wall gang make £12m withdrawal

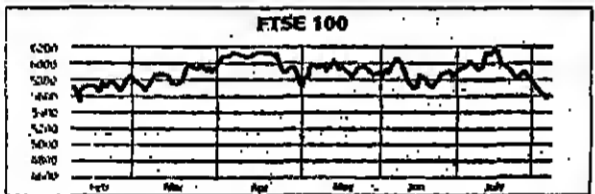


THE "HOLE in the wall" cash dispenser, or at least queuing up at one, may have become a bane of modern-day life. But for Kilby and Gayford, the family-owned refurbishment and security specialists, they are a way of making money as well as dispensing it.

The London-based company, Britain's leading installer of the cash machines, or ATMs as they are known, was yesterday bought by its management for £12m in a deal financed by 3i and Bank of Scotland.

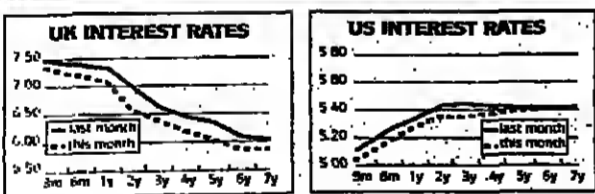
Pictured (left to right) are group managing director Terry Smith, Stephen Keating of 3i and Chris Chivers, managing director (building), at the headquarters of the news and financial services group Bloomberg where Kilby and Gayford is carrying out a major refurbishment. The business has been under the same family ownership for four generations since its foundation in 1860. The buyout will make a multi-millionaire out of the current chairman and controlling shareholder, Michael May.

STOCK MARKETS



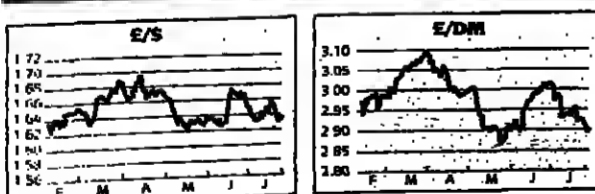
Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5680.40	-156.60	-2.68	6103.72	4382.8	3.793
FTSE 250	5312.00	-159.70	-3.91	5970.9	4428.3	3.76
FTSE 350	2735.10	-26.70	-0.73	2969.1	2141.8	3.787
FTSE All Share	2660.68	-74.04	-2.71	2886.52	2106.59	3.771
FTSE SmallCap	2413.10	-59.40	-2.40	2793.8	2188.8	3.688
FTSE Fledgling	1320.50	-36.10	-2.65	1517.1	1225.2	3.623
FTSE AIM	1046.00	-19.00	-1.79	1146.9	865.9	1.293
FTSE EBLUC 100	1025.84	-20.00	-1.93	1146.9	865.9	1.293
Dow Jones	8938.53	-286.30	-3.23	9367.84	6971.32	1.712
Nikkei	15829.17	-549.80	-3.36	19772.18	14488.21	0.964
Hang Seng	7018.41	-917.79	-11.57	16820.31	7254.36	5.813
DAX	5581.22	-292.70	-4.98	6217.83	3487.24	2.878

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.70	0.51	7.89	0.16	5.64	-1.41	5.35	-1.87
US	5.09	-0.03	5.78	-0.24	5.40	-0.84	5.63	-0.90
Japan	0.65	0.05	0.66	-0.06	1.48	-0.88	2.03	-0.85
Germany	3.51	0.24	3.79	0.21	4.56	-1.14	5.18	-1.23

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Pound	1.6300	-0.35c	1.5855	-0.05c	1.5855	-0.05c	1.5855	-0.05c
Dollar	1.6300	-0.35c	1.5855	-0.05c	1.5855	-0.05c	1.5855	-0.05c

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Brent Cr (5)	11.91	-0.64	18.90	-0.64	18.90	-0.64	18.90	-0.64
Gold (5)	286.65	0.20	321.95	0.20	321.95	0.20	321.95	0.20
Silver (5)	5.41	-0.12	4.38	-0.12	4.38	-0.12	4.38	-0.12

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
Australia (\$)	2.6027	-0.05c	2.5855	-0.05c	2.5855	-0.05c	2.5855	-0.05c
Austria (schillings)	19.73	-0.05c	19.73	-0.05c	19.73	-0.05c	19.73	-0.05c
Belgium (francs)	57.98	-0.05c	57.98	-0.05c	57.98	-0.05c	57.98	-0.05c
Canada (\$)	2.4197	-0.05c	2.4197	-0.05c	2.4197	-0.05c	2.4197	-0.05c
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8229	-0.05c	0.8229	-0.05c	0.8229	-0.05c	0.8229	-0.05c
Danmark (kroner)	10.78	-0.05c	10.78	-0.05c	10.78	-0.05c	10.78	-0.05c
Denmark (kroner)	8.5918	-0.05c	8.5918	-0.05c	8.5918	-0.05c	8.5918	-0.05c
Finland (markka)	9.4127	-0.05c	9.4127	-0.05c	9.4127	-0.05c	9.4127	-0.05c
France (francs)	2.8174	-0.05c	2.8174	-0.05c	2.8174	-0.05c	2.8174	-0.05c
Germany (marks)	4.6523	-0.05c	4.6523	-0.05c	4.6523	-0.05c	4.6523	-0.05c
Greece (drachmas)	12.28	-0.05c	12.28	-0.05c	12.28	-0.05c	12.28	-0.05c
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1119	-0.05c	1.1119	-0.05c	1.1119	-0.05c	1.1119	-0.05c
Ireland (pounds)	63.82	-0.05c	63.82	-0.05c	63.82	-0.05c	63.82	-0.05c
India (rupees)	5.5039	-0.05c	5.5039	-0.05c	5.5039	-0.05c	5.5039	-0.05c
Italy (lire)	2.784	-0.05c	2.784	-0.05c	2.784	-0.05c	2.784	-0.05c
Japan (yen)	231.96	-0.05c	231.96	-0.05c	231.96	-0.05c	231.96	-0.05c
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4745	-0.05c	6.4745	-0.05c	6.4745	-0.05c	6.4745	-0.05c
Malta (lira)	0.6155	-0.05c	0.6155	-0.05c	0.6155	-0.05c	0.6155	-0.05c

'Family friendly' job policies help women get work

BY LEA PATTERSON

BRITAIN'S LABOUR market has been more flexible than has been assumed, with "family friendly" employment policies cutting the jobless rate among women, according to a Bank of England study to be published this week.

Phil Evans of the Bank's Structural Economic Analysis Division argues that increased flexibility among employers has eased the process of returning to work after childbirth.

As a result, the so-called "natural rate" of female unemployment - that is, the rate of unemployment which is consistent with a stable rate of inflation - may have fallen.

Mr Evans argues that Family Credit may have also helped lower the rate of unemployment by encouraging women with young children to return to work rather than to remain on state benefit.

But the paper stops short of arguing that "family friendly" policies have lowered the unemployment rate for the economy as a whole.

Pension pledges 'cost millions'

MORE THAN half the UK's life insurers are facing exceptional charges totalling hundreds of millions of pounds because of expensive guarantees to pension savers of a minimum income in retirement.

Scottish Widows, Norwich Union, Friends Provident, Family Assurance and Guardian Financial Services are among life insurers being forced to live up to promises that annuity incomes would not fall below a guaranteed percentage.

The guarantees, mostly made in the 1970s and 1980s,

typically promised customers an income worth at least 7.5 per cent of the fund they had saved up. They were made in an effort to attract customers and allow them to plan financially.

But the promises now threaten to lose insurers' substantial sums of money because they can no longer find assets yielding enough to back the promises.

Sun Life of Canada last week said it was setting aside £114m to cover annuity guarantees given by its UK wing, and by Confederation Life UK which it took over in 1994. Guardian

Financial Services indicated it has also reserved up to £20m in respect of the guarantees.

Mark Oldcorn, a life insurance analyst at Moody's, the credit rating agency, said: "The promises were to pay a minimum return on annuities, but the assets backing those annuities are not yielding sufficient income to pay the guaranteed return."

Insurers use 15-year government gilts to back the income payments they made to holders of annuities.

Between 1980 and 1988 these typically yielded more than 10

per cent, making the guarantees seem safe.

But gilt yields - which track long-term interest rates - are now at a 20-year low, causing the guarantees to come unexpectedly into play.

Peter Magliocco, of annuity specialist the Annuity Bureau, said: "The companies writing these contracts never thought they would have to pay the rates they were offering because annuity rates in the market were so much higher."

"When they set them up, they thought they would never have to pay them."

Compel wins £75m BBC supply

BY PETER TRAL LARSEN

COMPTEL, the computer distribution group, has made a major breakthrough by winning a £75m contract to become the preferred supplier of computer hardware, software and services to the BBC.

Compel is today expected to announce the three-year contract, which the BBC has the option to extend to seven years. Although the terms of the deal are confidential, industry

experts said it was likely to be worth £18m-£25m a year.

Compel won the contract, which was advertised under European Union procurement rules, in the face of stiff competition from rivals, including Computacenter, the giant distributor.

The contract marks an increasing trend by large com-

panies to outsource all their computer requirements to a single supplier in order to reduce costs and streamline their own information technology departments.

There is a demand for groups which can supply a vast range of computer equipment at competitive prices, while also providing the necessary services to install, integrate and maintain the equipment.

Although Computacenter - which is capitalised at over £1bn - is by far the largest operator in the market, Compel is carving a niche for itself. Its share price has more than doubled in the past 12 months. It closed at 444p on Friday, valuing the group at £125m.

Under the terms of the deal, Compel will supply and service 18,000 PC users in the UK and abroad.

[illegible]

Date	Time	Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume
12/15	10:00	Apple	110.15	+1.15	111.25	109.00	110.00	110.15	1,200,000	110.15	+1.15	111.25	109.00	110.00	110.15	1,200,000
12/15	10:00	Microsoft	115.00	+1.00	116.00	114.00	115.00	115.00	1,000,000	115.00	+1.00	116.00	114.00	115.00	115.00	1,000,000
12/15	10:00	Amazon	180.00	+2.00	182.00	178.00	180.00	180.00	800,000	180.00	+2.00	182.00	178.00	180.00	180.00	800,000
12/15	10:00	Google	280.00	+3.00	283.00	277.00	280.00	280.00	600,000	280.00	+3.00	283.00	277.00	280.00	280.00	600,000
12/15	10:00	Facebook	150.00	+1.50	151.50	148.50	150.00	150.00	400,000	150.00	+1.50	151.50	148.50	150.00	150.00	400,000
12/15	10:00	Twitter	45.00	+0.50	45.50	44.50	45.00	45.00	300,000	45.00	+0.50	45.50	44.50	45.00	45.00	300,000
12/15	10:00	LinkedIn	25.00	+0.25	25.25	24.75	25.00	25.00	200,000	25.00	+0.25	25.25	24.75	25.00	25.00	200,000
12/15	10:00	Slack	35.00	+0.75	35.75	34.25	35.00	35.00	150,000	35.00	+0.75	35.75	34.25	35.00	35.00	150,000
12/15	10:00	Zoom	120.00	+1.20	121.20	118.80	120.00	120.00	100,000	120.00	+1.20	121.20	118.80	120.00	120.00	100,000
12/15	10:00	Dropbox	30.00	+0.30	30.30	29.70	30.00	30.00	80,000	30.00	+0.30	30.30	29.70	30.00	30.00	80,000
12/15	10:00	Evernote	20.00	+0.20	20.20	19.80	20.00	20.00	60,000	20.00	+0.20	20.20	19.80	20.00	20.00	60,000
12/15	10:00	Box	15.00	+0.15	15.15	14.85	15.00	15.00	50,000	15.00	+0.15	15.15	14.85	15.00	15.00	50,000
12/15	10:00	OneDrive	10.00	+0.10	10.10	9.90	10.00	10.00	40,000	10.00	+0.10	10.10	9.90	10.00	10.00	40,000
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	8.00	+0.08	8.08	7.92	8.00	8.00	30,000	8.00	+0.08	8.08	7.92	8.00	8.00	30,000
12/15	10:00	Teams	6.00	+0.06	6.06	5.94	6.00	6.00	20,000	6.00	+0.06	6.06	5.94	6.00	6.00	20,000
12/15	10:00	Outlook	4.00	+0.04	4.04	3.96	4.00	4.00	10,000	4.00	+0.04	4.04	3.96	4.00	4.00	10,000
12/15	10:00	Word	3.00	+0.03	3.03	2.97	3.00	3.00	8,000	3.00	+0.03	3.03	2.97	3.00	3.00	8,000
12/15	10:00	Excel	2.00	+0.02	2.02	1.98	2.00	2.00	6,000	2.00	+0.02	2.02	1.98	2.00	2.00	6,000
12/15	10:00	PowerPoint	1.50	+0.015	1.515	1.485	1.50	1.50	5,000	1.50	+0.015	1.515	1.485	1.50	1.50	5,000
12/15	10:00	Access	1.00	+0.01	1.01	0.99	1.00	1.00	4,000	1.00	+0.01	1.01	0.99	1.00	1.00	4,000
12/15	10:00	Visio	0.80	+0.008	0.808	0.792	0.80	0.80	3,000	0.80	+0.008	0.808	0.792	0.80	0.80	3,000
12/15	10:00	Project	0.60	+0.006	0.606	0.594	0.60	0.60	2,000	0.60	+0.006	0.606	0.594	0.60	0.60	2,000
12/15	10:00	InfoPath	0.40	+0.004	0.404	0.396	0.40	0.40	1,000	0.40	+0.004	0.404	0.396	0.40	0.40	1,000
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	0.30	+0.003	0.303	0.297	0.30	0.30	800	0.30	+0.003	0.303	0.297	0.30	0.30	800
12/15	10:00	Teams	0.20	+0.002	0.202	0.198	0.20	0.20	600	0.20	+0.002	0.202	0.198	0.20	0.20	600
12/15	10:00	Outlook	0.15	+0.0015	0.1515	0.1485	0.15	0.15	400	0.15	+0.0015	0.1515	0.1485	0.15	0.15	400
12/15	10:00	Word	0.10	+0.001	0.101	0.099	0.10	0.10	300	0.10	+0.001	0.101	0.099	0.10	0.10	300
12/15	10:00	Excel	0.08	+0.0008	0.0808	0.0792	0.08	0.08	200	0.08	+0.0008	0.0808	0.0792	0.08	0.08	200
12/15	10:00	PowerPoint	0.06	+0.0006	0.0606	0.0594	0.06	0.06	150	0.06	+0.0006	0.0606	0.0594	0.06	0.06	150
12/15	10:00	Access	0.04	+0.0004	0.0404	0.0396	0.04	0.04	100	0.04	+0.0004	0.0404	0.0396	0.04	0.04	100
12/15	10:00	Visio	0.03	+0.0003	0.0303	0.0297	0.03	0.03	80	0.03	+0.0003	0.0303	0.0297	0.03	0.03	80
12/15	10:00	Project	0.02	+0.0002	0.0202	0.0198	0.02	0.02	60	0.02	+0.0002	0.0202	0.0198	0.02	0.02	60
12/15	10:00	InfoPath	0.01	+0.0001	0.0101	0.0099	0.01	0.01	40	0.01	+0.0001	0.0101	0.0099	0.01	0.01	40
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	0.008	+0.00008	0.00808	0.00792	0.008	0.008	30	0.008	+0.00008	0.00808	0.00792	0.008	0.008	30
12/15	10:00	Teams	0.006	+0.00006	0.00606	0.00594	0.006	0.006	20	0.006	+0.00006	0.00606	0.00594	0.006	0.006	20
12/15	10:00	Outlook	0.004	+0.00004	0.00404	0.00396	0.004	0.004	15	0.004	+0.00004	0.00404	0.00396	0.004	0.004	15
12/15	10:00	Word	0.003	+0.00003	0.00303	0.00297	0.003	0.003	10	0.003	+0.00003	0.00303	0.00297	0.003	0.003	10
12/15	10:00	Excel	0.002	+0.00002	0.00202	0.00198	0.002	0.002	8	0.002	+0.00002	0.00202	0.00198	0.002	0.002	8
12/15	10:00	PowerPoint	0.0015	+0.000015	0.001515	0.001485	0.0015	0.0015	6	0.0015	+0.000015	0.001515	0.001485	0.0015	0.0015	6
12/15	10:00	Access	0.001	+0.00001	0.00101	0.00099	0.001	0.001	4	0.001	+0.00001	0.00101	0.00099	0.001	0.001	4
12/15	10:00	Visio	0.0008	+0.000008	0.000808	0.000792	0.0008	0.0008	3	0.0008	+0.000008	0.000808	0.000792	0.0008	0.0008	3
12/15	10:00	Project	0.0006	+0.000006	0.000606	0.000594	0.0006	0.0006	2	0.0006	+0.000006	0.000606	0.000594	0.0006	0.0006	2
12/15	10:00	InfoPath	0.0004	+0.000004	0.000404	0.000396	0.0004	0.0004	1	0.0004	+0.000004	0.000404	0.000396	0.0004	0.0004	1
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	0.0003	+0.000003	0.000303	0.000297	0.0003	0.0003	0.8	0.0003	+0.000003	0.000303	0.000297	0.0003	0.0003	0.8
12/15	10:00	Teams	0.0002	+0.000002	0.000202	0.000198	0.0002	0.0002	0.6	0.0002	+0.000002	0.000202	0.000198	0.0002	0.0002	0.6
12/15	10:00	Outlook	0.00015	+0.0000015	0.0001515	0.0001485	0.00015	0.00015	0.4	0.00015	+0.0000015	0.0001515	0.0001485	0.00015	0.00015	0.4
12/15	10:00	Word	0.0001	+0.000001	0.000101	0.000099	0.0001	0.0001	0.3	0.0001	+0.000001	0.000101	0.000099	0.0001	0.0001	0.3
12/15	10:00	Excel	0.00008	+0.0000008	0.0000808	0.0000792	0.00008	0.00008	0.2	0.00008	+0.0000008	0.0000808	0.0000792	0.00008	0.00008	0.2
12/15	10:00	PowerPoint	0.00006	+0.0000006	0.0000606	0.0000594	0.00006	0.00006	0.15	0.00006	+0.0000006	0.0000606	0.0000594	0.00006	0.00006	0.15
12/15	10:00	Access	0.00004	+0.0000004	0.0000404	0.0000396	0.00004	0.00004	0.1	0.00004	+0.0000004	0.0000404	0.0000396	0.00004	0.00004	0.1
12/15	10:00	Visio	0.00003	+0.0000003	0.0000303	0.0000297	0.00003	0.00003	0.08	0.00003	+0.0000003	0.0000303	0.0000297	0.00003	0.00003	0.08
12/15	10:00	Project	0.00002	+0.0000002	0.0000202	0.0000198	0.00002	0.00002	0.06	0.00002	+0.0000002	0.0000202	0.0000198	0.00002	0.00002	0.06
12/15	10:00	InfoPath	0.000015	+0.00000015	0.00001515	0.00001485	0.000015	0.000015	0.04	0.000015	+0.00000015	0.00001515	0.00001485	0.000015	0.000015	0.04
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	0.00001	+0.0000001	0.0000101	0.0000099	0.00001	0.00001	0.03	0.00001	+0.0000001	0.0000101	0.0000099	0.00001	0.00001	0.03
12/15	10:00	Teams	0.000008	+0.00000008	0.00000808	0.00000792	0.000008	0.000008	0.02	0.000008	+0.00000008	0.00000808	0.00000792	0.000008	0.000008	0.02
12/15	10:00	Outlook	0.000006	+0.00000006	0.00000606	0.00000594	0.000006	0.000006	0.015	0.000006	+0.00000006	0.00000606	0.00000594	0.000006	0.000006	0.015
12/15	10:00	Word	0.000004	+0.00000004	0.00000404	0.00000396	0.000004	0.000004	0.01	0.000004	+0.00000004	0.00000404	0.00000396	0.000004	0.000004	0.01
12/15	10:00	Excel	0.000003	+0.00000003	0.00000303	0.00000297	0.000003	0.000003	0.008	0.000003	+0.00000003	0.00000303	0.00000297	0.000003	0.000003	0.008
12/15	10:00	PowerPoint	0.000002	+0.00000002	0.00000202	0.00000198	0.000002	0.000002	0.006	0.000002	+0.00000002	0.00000202	0.00000198	0.000002	0.000002	0.006
12/15	10:00	Access	0.0000015	+0.000000015	0.000001515	0.000001485	0.0000015	0.0000015	0.004	0.0000015	+0.000000015	0.000001515	0.000001485	0.0000015	0.0000015	0.004
12/15	10:00	Visio	0.000001	+0.00000001	0.00000101	0.00000099	0.000001	0.000001	0.003	0.000001	+0.00000001	0.00000101	0.00000099	0.000001	0.000001	0.003
12/15	10:00	Project	0.0000008	+0.000000008	0.000000808	0.000000792	0.0000008	0.0000008	0.002	0.0000008	+0.000000008	0.000000808	0.000000792	0.0000008	0.0000008	0.002
12/15	10:00	InfoPath	0.0000006	+0.000000006	0.000000606	0.000000594	0.0000006	0.0000006	0.0015	0.0000006	+0.000000006	0.000000606	0.000000594	0.0000006	0.0000006	0.0015
12/15	10:00	SharePoint	0.0000004	+0.000000004	0.000000404	0.000000396	0.0000004	0.0000004	0.001	0.0000004	+0.000000004	0.000000404	0.000000396	0.0000004	0.0000004	0.001
12/15	10:00	Teams	0.0000003	+0.000000003	0.000000303	0.000000297	0.0000003	0.0000003	0.0008	0.0000003	+0.000000003	0.000000303	0.000000297	0.0000003	0.0000003	0.0008
12/15	10:00	Outlook	0.0000002	+0.000000002	0.000000202	0.000000198	0.0000002	0.0000002	0.0006	0.0000002	+0.000000002	0.000000202	0.000000198	0.0000002	0.0000002	0.0006
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Strong balance sheets spare us the worst

A HARD LANDING with business bankruptcies and unemployment both rising may now be inevitable. However, a key factor determining the severity of the downturn will be the behaviour of the corporate sector.

The principal problem for companies has been an overvalued exchange rate. Taking account of changes in relative labour costs and Asian currency developments, we estimate there has been almost a 50 per cent loss of international competitiveness since early 1996. UK plc is now as uncompetitive as it was in the early 1980s - another period of substantial currency overvaluation. Indeed the scale of the overvaluation is much more severe than when the UK was in the ERM between 1990-92.

To date, much of the deterioration in the UK's trade position can be explained by Asia. Export volumes to the region have collapsed. Import penetration from Asia appears to have risen significantly. The recent collapse in export orders, though, is indicative of far more widespread difficulties. Initially the problem was disguised by the way exporters in general took the currency hit on margins, cushioning the impact on orders.

Perhaps the situation could have been salvaged if the extreme overvaluation of sterling last year had proved temporary. However, as sterling became increasingly overvalued it became more and more likely that UK plc would eventually be priced out of international markets.

If things were not bad enough, orders are now falling in Germany, the hub of the UK's most important export market, Europe.



DAVID OWEN

As the economic cycle turns down, many companies raise savings, but the corporate sector tends to go into debt

A collapse in export orders may have been delayed, but it has been evident since early 1996 that profit margins were coming under increasing pressure. Given the scale of the overvaluation of sterling and global developments it is easy to see a profit downturn on a similar scale as in the early 1990s. This is worrying. Recessions have almost always been preceded by falling profits.

Why, then, not deep recession this time? One crucial difference this time around is the strength of balance sheets. There has never been such a contrast between profit weakness and balance sheet health as there is today.

In previous downturns profits deteriorated against a background of suspect balance sheets. Balance sheets got rapidly

worse. Deep recessions followed as liquidity constraints forced companies to retrench rapidly.

The situation this time around is very different, as the chart indicates. The blue line confirms that corporate earnings growth has been slowing for two years and is now moving into negative territory.

The red line shows a very different picture of corporate sector health. Outstanding bank deposits of industrial and commercial companies is shown as a proportion of their outstanding bank borrowings, the so-called liquidity ratio. This stood at a historically high level in the first quarter of this year.

But hold on. Surely a profit downturn will rapidly bring deterioration in balance sheets? Yes, but the point is that the starting point is so good that there is a huge cushion.

Prior to the last recession, it was relatively commonplace for commentators to argue that improved inventory control reduced the need for de-stocking as the cycle turned down. This may have been the case. However, despite historically relatively low stock-output ratios, companies were faced with very little choice on liquidity grounds but to cut stock-building. Indeed the eventual de-stocking was on a scale with the 1980-81 downturn and the 1970s recession. This could have been forecast by looking at the behaviour of the liquidity ratio.

The unprecedented con-

trast between corporate earnings and balance sheets is just an additional uncertainty for forecasting the UK economy. The severity of the current downturn will depend in large part on which factor proves the more important.

Most likely both factors will play a role. The severity of the downturn in profits is such that a hard landing is inevitable. However, companies will make use of their balance sheet strength to avoid more savage retrenchment.

As the economic cycle turns down, many companies may raise precautionary savings, but the corporate sector as a whole tends to go further into debt.

To put the current strength of balance sheets in context, companies could increase their outstanding bank borrowings by around £25bn for the liquidity ratio shown opposite to fall back to its previous record lows.

The current strength of balance sheets is largely a reflection of one of the principal causes of the last downturn, debt. Companies scared by the memory of the last recession and seeing little reason to invest in the early stages of this recovery made it a priority to restore balance sheets.

This caution puts them in better shape to withstand the effects of a substantially overvalued exchange rate. Not only that, but base rates are likely to have peaked at half the level of the last cycle.

The absence of liquidity constraints should rule out de-stocking on the scale of the last recession. IT problems related to the Year 2000 problem along with balance sheet health should provide additional momentum to investment. Company hiring plans will be scaled back as profitability slips, but there should be much less in the way of enforced redundancies than seen in the early 1990s. We may also continue to see many companies continuing to pay up for skill shortages.

On balance sheet grounds some sectors are clearly more insulated from corporate hard landing than others. Latest data provided by the Bank of England contrasts the balance sheet strength of business services with much of the catering industry.

Within manufacturing there are clear contrasts between some of the more "high tech" sectors where balance sheets are strong,

and food, drink, tobacco and textiles. Survey evidence suggests that small unquoted companies continue to look more vulnerable.

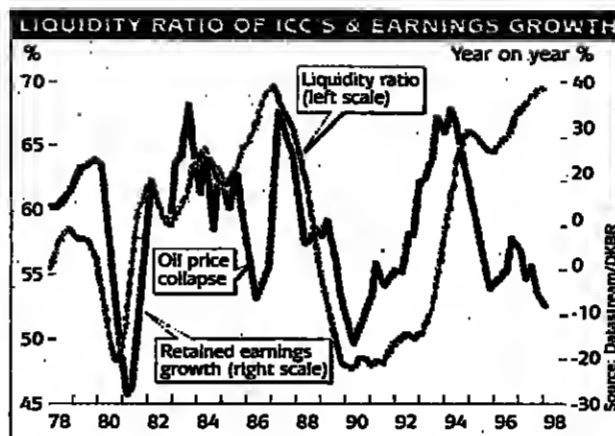
Where does this all leave the MPC at the Bank of England? As already highlighted, even the current strength of balance sheets cannot avoid an extremely sharp slowdown in growth. Indeed given the degree of overvaluation of sterling, a prolonged period of below trend growth seems very likely and the risk of technical recession (two consecutive quarters of negative growth) is significant.

But if companies do not exacerbate a demand slowdown by savage retrenchment, will the economy slow enough to ease inflationary pressures? This hinges on one's belief about where the level of activity is in relation to the economy's potential output. In our judgement, the extent of overheating was exaggerated.

The weight of evidence is that the slowdown is spreading out of manufacturing into services and consumption. The trend toward outsourcing in the 1980s and 1990s has made the service sector more dependent on manufacturing, services could never insulate themselves completely from an overvalued pound.

Accordingly in the next six months confidence will grow that a slowing economy will not be accompanied by the inflation hanger that has typified many previous slowdowns. As such we can hope that not only have interest rates peaked, but that rate cuts are possible by year end.

David Owen is the UK Economist and a Director of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.



News Analysis: Wall Street plunged 299 points last week. Was this a case of August shakes?

IN BRIEF

One bear turns US rally into a rout

"ANY BIT of noise gets amplified during the summer," said PaineWebber strategist Edward Kerschner last week, "because the market is very thin." Many people are away on holiday, or their minds are in the Hamptons while their bodies still lurk in midtown Manhattan.

Mr Kerschner himself delivered his wisdom from a boat on the Danube. So was that all there was to last week's 299 point plunge in the Dow? A simple case of the August shakes? As Wall Street regrouped, there was little consensus amongst the stock analysts or the economists about where the stock market goes from here.

There is some reason to think that the recovery may continue this week, and the US economy remains fundamentally sound, with little indication of either monetary policy shifts or a sudden plunge in growth. Yet all around there are worrying signs, notably in Asia.

By the end of the week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had recovered over a third of Tuesday's precipitous decline. The S&P 500 slipped a little, but advancing stocks led declines on Friday, as the market started to recover a little confidence.

The bulls amongst the analysts had peeked out into the storm, and pronounced themselves still confident that the rally would continue. Led by Goldman Sachs' Abby Joseph

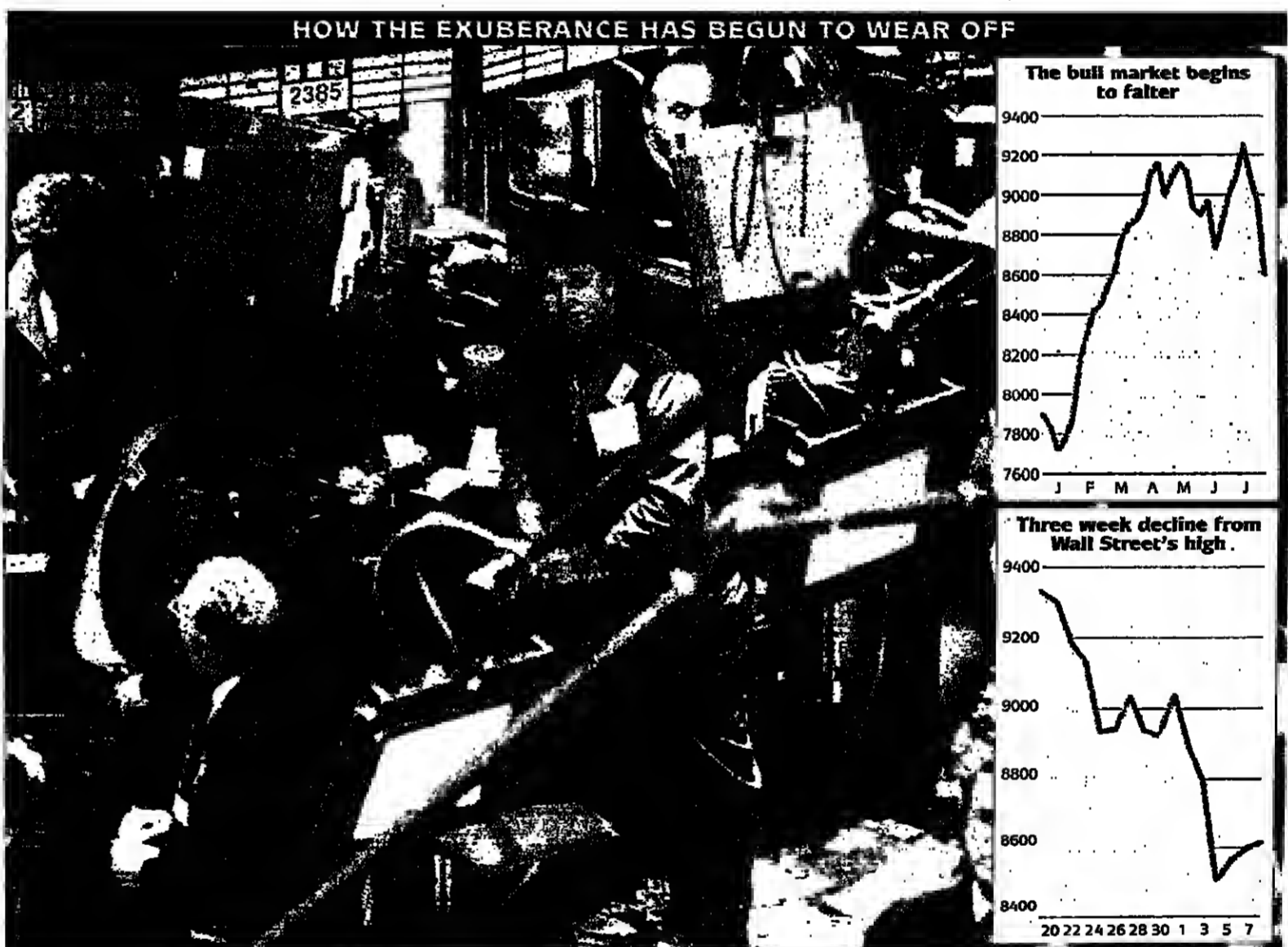
BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Cohen, they said that the correction was overdone. Strategists for PaineWebber, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, Salomon Smith Barney, and others said Wall Street would recover to end the year higher. It was the comments of another analyst, Ralph Acampora of Prudential, which helped to turn Tuesday into a rout. The 3½-year rally was "very tired," he said.

There is some evidence behind that comment. The broader market, for instance, has looked weak for months, and to some extent what happened this week was that the larger capitalisation stocks caught up. Mr Acampora pointed to declines in corporate performance as the Asian downturn hit US exports.

So far, the US economy has been highly resilient in spite of the Asian crash. There has been no indication as yet that it is in serious trouble; though recent statistics have shown a slowing of growth, that is hardly surprising given the 5.4 per cent annualised growth in GDP in the first quarter.

The domestic economy remains relatively strong as the Federal Reserve's Beige book showed last week. It analyses growth in the different regions of the US economy. Though the survey was generally positive, it did note that there were problems showing through.



"Many districts noted that labour shortages, shipping bottlenecks and continued weakness from East Asia were beginning to temper growth in their regions," it said.

Alan Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, warned two years ago that "irrational exuberance" had taken hold of the market, but since then, his warnings have been much less outspoken. Instead, his appearances before Congress have been characterised by a mixture of admiration and sheer puzzlement at the continuing performance of the economy.

The Fed next meets on 18 August, and as yet there is little to indicate that it will either raise or cut interest rates.

The investing public seem to have taken a relatively relaxed view of last week's slump, with little indication that they had turned sour on stocks. Fidelity Investments reported few movements from equities to cash and bonds; other funds even saw investors moving into equities at what they saw as good prices.

It was programme trades and nervous institutional investors who were moving the market. That could be good or bad news. The bull market has been powered by the rush of cash into mutual funds, which has had a healthy relationship to strong domestic economic growth.

While individuals have seen their investments racing ahead,

increasing their spending power, they have helped to stoke the fires of a domestic boom. If suddenly caught out, that relationship could reverse.

The coming week has a clutch of important economic data releases, including second-quarter productivity figures, and retail sales and producer prices for July. These will help to show whether the consumer boom continues, and whether the slowdown in growth has shown up underlying weaknesses in the key US unit labour costs.

So far the markets seem to have shown scant interest in the real economy. There will also be second-quarter results from some important corporations, including a slew of the

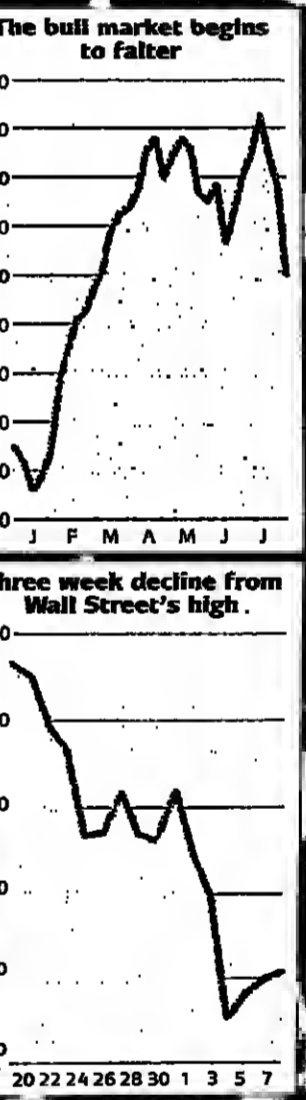
biggest retailers: Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Gap. The available evidence suggests that despite the slowdown, the retailers have had a strong year so far, which might cheer the market. But there are three long-term issues hanging over the market that will not go away. The first is Asia. So far, the impact on America has been relatively slight, but a devaluation of the Chinese currency, and a concomitant fall in the Hong Kong dollar, would hit confidence very badly.

The second factor is whether further instability starts to panic individual investors. They have more of their assets tied up in stocks than at any time in the last 50 years, and daily images of panic do not get

breakfast off to a good start. So far, investors seem to have concluded that it was seasonal volatility, not fundamental weakness, which hit the market, and their happy experiences of the last three years have conditioned many to believe that what goes down must go up.

The public display great confidence in the economy in opinion polls - greater than at most periods for the last three decades. But at some point that will change.

The third factor is uncertainty. The market has been highly unstable over the last week, partly because there is genuinely no consensus. Many cannot see what is keeping the market up - beyond skyboots.



Call to block Halifax takeover

THE PRESSURE group Save our Building Societies is to demand a special general meeting of Birmingham Midshires members in a bid to block the £750m takeover by Halifax. A spokesman said it was taking the action because it had been refused permission to include resolutions of its own in the transfer document being sent out to the society's one million members.

Daimler pledge

GERMANY'S Daimler-Benz wooed shareholder support for its £42bn transatlantic merger with Chrysler Corp over the weekend, pledging sharp profit gains and higher dividend payouts.

Daimler said that it would raise its dividend after the merger with Chrysler is completed later this year, in a bid to match the kind of payouts that Chrysler shareholders have enjoyed and forecast operating profits of DM6.16bn this year rising to DM8.65bn in 1999 and DM10.23bn the year after.

Euro 'safe haven'

THE EURO is seen as the latest "safe haven" by European fund managers who are worried by the prospect of deflation and falling corporate profitability in Asia and the US.

Of the 68 European fund managers interviewed in the August survey by Gallup for Merrill Lynch, 74 per cent said they favour the euro over the next 12 months, with only 23 per cent picking the US dollar as their preferred currency, and a mere 2 per cent the yen.

£35m buyout

BARCLAYS Private Capital has backed a £35 million Management Buy Out (MBO) of Granada Vending Services Limited (GVSL) from Granada Group. The current management team will stay in place at GVSL, led by Terry Nash, managing director, Clive Groupman, finance director and Colin Masters, sales director.

Granada bought GVSL from P&O in 1993. GVSL has over 400 employees operating out of 8 regional offices, and is forecast to generate sales of over £28 million in the year to next September.

Egypt privatises

EGYPT is planning a mass privatisation programme that will see it selling shares in public utility companies with a combined value of £50 billion. The chairman of Egypt's Capital Market Authority, Abdel Hamid Ibrahim, said yesterday that the companies would come to market "in the coming period" but did not give a timetable. Reports said share offerings were already being prepared for electricity companies partly with the aim of enlivening trade on the depressed Cairo stock exchange.

Boeing and Airbus to share £5bn BA order

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BRITISH AIRWAYS is preparing to share out a £5bn aircraft order, one of the largest in commercial aviation history, between the two arch rivals, Airbus Industrie and Boeing.

The four-nation Airbus consortium is favourite to win a £5bn order for up to 100 short-haul jets to enter service on BA's regional European routes.

BA is expected to order about 60 aircraft from the Airbus A320 range both for the main airline and its European subsidiaries, Deutsche BA and Air Liberté. Options are likely on a further 60 aircraft.

This would be the first time BA has bought direct from Airbus and a major coup for the consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent

stake. The aircraft will be powered by either V2500 engines from the International Aero Engines consortium, in which Rolls has a 30 per cent stake, or by the CFM56 of General Electric and Snecma.

The order for 777s could involve up to 30 aircraft. If Rolls is selected as the engine supplier, it would be a double bonus. BA's existing fleet of 777s are powered by GE90 engines. It has 18 in service and a further 11 on order.

When the order was placed seven years ago, Lord King, then BA chairman, controversially decided to opt for an

American-powered aircraft to meet its future wide-bodied needs rather than a British-powered Airbus, the A330.

As a result BA is one of the few leading airlines which has no Rolls-Royce Trent engines in service. Selecting Rolls would mean that BA's fleet of 777s would be powered by two different engines.

Industry sources said BA could still justify this on economic grounds since the latest versions of the Trent have greater power and thrust than competing engines, extending the range and payload of the new 777s.



Catalogues stay ahead of electronic shopping

By JOHN WILLCOCK

HOME SHOPPING sales in the UK are set to rise by nearly a quarter to £12.6bn over the next four years, with the bulk of growth coming from traditional mail order catalogue companies rather than electronic shopping.

A report entitled "Home Shopping in the UK" published today by Corporate Intelligence on Retailing says: "Electronic shopping will still only account for 0.35 per cent of retail sales by 2002, a stark contrast to some of the more bullish forecasts produced by other organisations, often consultants or IT companies with their own agenda to push."

This means electronic sales will rise from £200m this year to £720m in 2002. The report argues that "it will be direct mail order which provides much of the momentum for growth in the short to medium term."



Electronic shopping still only accounts for 0.35 per cent of retail sales

"Belatedly following the lead of Next Directory, high street retailers such as Marks & Spencer and the Arcadia Group are looking to encourage more upmarket and fashion-conscious consumers to shop from the home."

The report adds that the more traditional agency houses are also bringing out new marketing titles.

For instance GUS has introduced Dis-

ney World and Sports Elite. Gratian has launched Eddie Bauer, Empire has brought out La Redoute and Freemans has issued The Book.

The report estimates that total home shopping sales will increase 6.8 per cent this year and a further 23.5 per cent over four years. By 2002 the sector will account for 6.3 per cent of all retail sales, compared to 5.9 per cent in 1997.

Writs against Geest claim £48m damages

GEEST, the British frozen food distributor, says it will "vigorously" contest two writs it received last week which demand £48.2 million in damages, and which allege it misrepresented the value of its Caribbean banana businesses it sold 2½ years ago.

The writs were issued by the purchasers, a joint venture between Dublin-based Fyffes and the Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company (Wideco) via their solicitors S J Berwin.

Geest claimed that the writs may be a response to its own legal action it launched against Fyffes last December concerning the same deal.

Geest's lawyers are Baker & McKenzie.

The latest lawsuits represent an escalation in the dispute between Geest and Fyffes over the £147.5m sale in January 1996 of Geest's banana interests and two transport ships to the joint venture. Fyffes subsequently sold the main part of Geest's former banana business, a 2,800 hectare farm in Costa Rica, for \$14m.

Carl McCann, deputy chairman of Fyffes, and Bernard Cornibert, managing director of Wideco in the UK, issued a joint statement last Thursday along with their writs: "This has been a considered decision, following a detailed review of information which was not available to us at the time of the

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

Geest's lawyers are Baker & McKenzie.



acquisition, and which revealed a couple of skeletons."

The first writ demands £33.7m in damages. The writ alleges that Geest had not disclosed the existence of soil surveys showing that the Costa Rican Banana Farm could not sustain its rate of production. The writ also claims that Geest had not carried the consequences of these surveys through into its balance sheet. "Accordingly, the value of the Farm was significantly overstated - by US\$66.5 million - in Geest's accounts; we have been advised that this was in breach of company law and accountancy practice," the writ claims.

Secondly, Fyffes and Wideco allege that Geest and its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell, had told them that "another purchaser was in the frame at a comparable price. They had maintained that representation even when specifically challenged."

This price had effectively set the eventual sale price, the joint venture parties said. "In fact, as Geest's lawyers have effectively admitted in correspondence, the competing offer was in headline terms £14.5 million lower," they added.

Geest hit back with its own statement on Thursday. Geest said it had launched its own writ against the joint venture last December over a financing agreement for the two transport ships which had formed part of the 1996 deal.

The financing agreement required that Fyffes made certain payments into an escrow account, and Geest claimed the joint venture had ceased to do so. Geest's legal claim is due to be heard in court on 23 September.

Ian Menzies-Gow, Geest's chairman, commented: "We have made a valid claim against Fyffes for reneging on an earlier agreement with regard to payments into an escrow account. Given Fyffes had already made payments into this account, it is odd that they have now made a U-turn."

"Indeed, not only have they U-turned, but we have received

claims relating to a deal with tooth place some 2½ years ago. Why have they only now found problems with this deal?"

Mr Menzies-Gow continued: "Whatever their reasons, they can expect a vigorous response to their claims which are mischievous at best and ill-conceived at worst."

Geest made a number of other points in its statement. The company said that "the joint venture's claim in July 1997 was received two days before the warranty period ran out on a transaction that took place 18 months before."

Also, "Fyffes disposed of the banana plantation assets on 1 March 1996, within two months of acquiring the business, but only made a claim relating to this business some 16 months after the disposal."

The statement added: "In December 1996, on settlement of an outstanding issue relating to working capital, Fyffes's deputy chairman specifically stated that, excepting the ships, there were no other issues to be resolved with Geest."

The statement concluded that "the audited accounts for the newly-purchased banana business were approved and signed-off by the directors of the joint venture in April 1997, including the now disputed values for the plantation assets. Geest's request nearly a year ago for further information to support the joint venture's claim remains unanswered."

Channel Islands set to run own stock market

THE CHANNEL Islands, already renowned for their undemanding tax regime, is set to offer its millionaire inhabitants their own Stock Exchange.

Its ambition is to become Europe's premier offshore market, "the centre of choice for the listing of investment funds, debt instruments and the shares of companies."

It will be the first home-grown market since the London Stock Exchange absorbed the portfolio of provincial markets some 30 years ago.

Run by Tamara Menteshvili, tax-Merrill Lynch and based in Guernsey, the CHSE had hoped to witness its first deal next month. But "technical problems" have put back the opening a month or so.

Perhaps with an eye on the difficulties which have tormented London's controversial order book, the CHSE has opted wisely for market-makers and quote-driven trading.

With its tax advantages, the new market should be able to carve out a significant niche even in the increasingly international world of investment. It could also score a significant plus from its existence outside the bureaucratic embrace of the European Union.

The development of Euroland seems set to create at least one cross-border market, London has already linked with Frankfurt and the fledgling creation may eventually embrace other European markets. Such a body would give the Americans a run for their money.

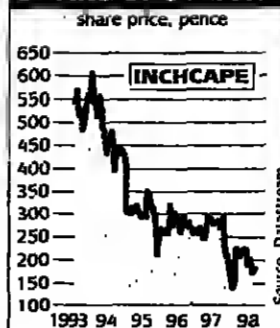
The new alliance could, however, face a powerful rival, probably led by Paris. But giant markets are only part of the unfolding European investment scene.

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Esdaq, a sort of European version of the US Nasdaq, is starting to flex its muscles after a slow start, and Euro.NM, specialising in hi-tech shares, is growing at a rapid pace.

CISE, it would appear, has already gathered considerable local backing with existing Channel Island stockbrokers (currently trading largely through London) expressing support. The new market expects to attract local firms, some of which are already traded in London. Dual listings are likely.

It also hopes to offer a market to companies from other lands and has already experienced considerable interest from the US.

The Channel Islands have a huge investment industry, with a multitude of offshore attractions. Its residents also

represent a not insignificant slice of London's private client business.

Naturally the local investment industry will be offered incentives. For example accountants, fund managers and lawyers can become CISE members and able to list their own funds. The cost savings could be considerable.

Investor safeguards will be vital and Ms Menteshvili is, of course, aware that the fledgling CISE will be closely monitored to see if the necessary measures are in place. She has no intention of presiding over a maverick market, and the CISE will seek international recognition, particularly from regulatory bodies in the UK and the US.

Back at the ranch, a handful of Fyffes constituents dominate this week's profits programme.

Orange, the mobile phone group, is expected to once again dial a loss - an interim figure of around £50m, down from £74m. The company, like others in the world of communications, has yet to make a profit.

No such problem at BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster. Even so, profits are likely to be lower, reflecting higher programme costs. A year's out-turn of £380m against £300m is on the cards. The signalled digital expenditure could lead to a pegged dividend - 6p a share.

BOC, British Oxygen as was, is another due to suffer a profits decline. Its third quarter figures are estimated to be around £270m compared with £235.4m.

British Airways, however, should manage a £10m first quarter climb to £100m. The figures could be overshadowed by huge orders for new aircraft, with Boeing and Airbus hoping to emerge

victorious. In the past BA has favoured Boeing, this time there is talk of political pressure for Airbus to get at least some of the spoils.

Two newly-created giants are on the schedule. Nymcom Amersham, the health group, will offer maiden interim - say, £10m - and insurance group CGU Commercial Union plus General Accident will maintain the pattern of lower insurance profits with a 44 per cent interim fall to £275m.

Takeover favourites BICC, Sedgwick and Smith & Nephew also feature. BICC, with cable and construction interests, is unlikely to improve its position if an unwanted bidder did appear - interim profits will be down £7m to £48m. Insurance broker Sedgwick is in the same boat with figures of £58m (£56.5m).

And Smith & Nephew, the health care group, will also be unable to shore up its defences as half-year results are likely to emerge at £71m against £81.1m.

Incecape, the international trader which has suffered acutely from the gyrations in Far Eastern fortunes, will also be in retreat with interim profits some £20m down to £58m.

Still, the half-time figures should be accompanied by further break-up developments, with the group likely to disclose the disposal of its Russian bottling business. Other sales and flotations are scheduled.

Asia was presenting problems to Incecape long before the crisis erupted last year. The shares of this relic of empire were more than 600p four years ago. In the early 1990s the company was a Fyffes constituent. With its shares at 176p, its capitalisation is now £925m.

THE WEEK'S DIARY

TODAY
Interims: British Airways, Granger, Incecape, Saatchi & Saatchi, Silverman Group, Skipton Building Society, Workspace Group (Q1)
Finals: Stoves Group AGMs: None scheduled
EGMs: Atlantic Telecom, JJB Sports
Economics: UK July producer price index

TUESDAY
Interims: BOC (Q3), Epwin Group, Hall Engineering, Headlam Group, Memory

Corp, Millennium & Copthorne, Nymcom, Amersham, Quantica, Sanderson Bramall, Sedgwick, Smith & Nephew, Thompson Clive Investments
Finals: Milner Estates AGMs: Castings, Delancey, Diagen, Schroder UK Growth
EGMs: None scheduled
Economics: UK BRC July retail sales survey, CBI Aug regional trends survey, UK Acquisitions and mergers (Q2)

WEDNESDAY
Interims: BICC, CGU,

General Accident, Morgan Sindall, VDC Group
Finals: Games Workshop, Westminster Health Care AGMs: European Telecom, Mountview Estates, Tenneco
EGMs: Technoplast Industries
Economics: Bank of England quarterly inflation report, UK July labour market report, Minutes of Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee's July 8-9 meeting

THURSDAY
Interims: Danka Business (Q1), Independent Insurance Group, Medikey

FRIDAY
Interims: Sherwood International
Finals: Crown Eyeglass, Peterhead Group AGMs: None scheduled
EGMs: AFA Systems, African Lakes, File Indmar, Honeysuckle Group
Economics: No UK data scheduled for release

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SPORT

Premiership countdown: Experienced Frenchman joins the boot room in radical experiment on Merseyside



The new regime (from left): Gérard Houllier and Roy Evans, Liverpool's joint managers, on the bench alongside the injured Robbie Fowler and other members of the multi-talented Anfield Squad Clive Brunskill/Allsport

Liverpool turn to power-sharing

FROM BEING the team of the 1970s and 80s, Liverpool's fortunes have declined, not so much that they are back among the also-rans of English football, but to the extent that they are in danger of being labelled as perennial underachievers. The "Big Five" of days gone by has now become the big three and Liverpool are still one of those, but failure to mount a realistic championship challenge this season could mean them hanging on to the coat-tails of Manchester United and Arsenal in league, rather than competing with them on equal terms.

All of this is assuming, of course, that the established order of football in this country survives the threat of a European Super League and, as England's most successful side in Europe, Liverpool are naturally included in any such discussions. Indeed, you could say that, with the appointment as joint manager of Gérard Houllier, the so-called mastermind behind France's World Cup triumph, Liverpool have already taken an important step along that road. Certainly, the parochial values that served them so well before the advent of the Premier League at last

seem to have given way to the reality of the modern game and if Houllier, together with the new coach Patrice Bergues, can work effectively with Roy Evans and the existing coaching staff, then Liverpool could end up with the best of both worlds.

Quite how the partnership will evolve will be closely monitored by a sceptical Merseyside audience but so far, Evans insists, it is business as usual. "It works very well at the moment," said Evans, whose own position has been severely compromised. It is hard to think of many other men who would have accepted such an arrangement, but then Evans is Liverpool through and through and probably had little choice. "There's been a fair amount of criticism and we accepted that, because people have tried it before and it hasn't always worked."

"But we seem to have the same mentality, the same football thoughts and the main reason we've done it is to help the players, to get them to perform better. You might say that's me saying I didn't have it all, but I don't think anybody's got it all and if we can add to my experience and Doug Livermore and the rest of the staff with Gérard and Patrice, then I think it'll be a great asset."

Evans and Houllier insist that their new managerial alliance can bring success back to Anfield. By Adam Szreter

"He [Gérard] speaks great English but I'm just getting him to the stage where his language is becoming bad - that's my biggest influence on him."

For his part, Houllier admits there has not been time yet for him to exert his influence on proceedings but is anxious to point out: "It's Roy's and my influence, it's not just one man. It's a blending process. We try to work to harmonise and synchronise our way of defending, because

that's where I think we need something. Offensive-wise we should be okay, but we need to settle down a little bit when we lose the ball."

Which is all very well, but the question remains: who picks the team? "We're picking the team," Evans said, "and not just as a two-some but the whole backroom staff. It's ever been thus at Liverpool. You might say only one guy has the final say and I suppose that's true, but we'll just have to toss a coin that day."

LIVERPOOL IN THE 1990s				
SEASON	LEAGUE	FA CUP	LEAGUE CUP	EUROPE
1989-90	Winners	Semi-final	3rd round	Heysel ban
90-91	Runners-up	5th round	3rd round	Heysel ban
91-92	6th	Winners	4th round	Uefa q-fnls
92-93	6th	3rd round	4th round	CWC 2nd rd
93-94	8th	3rd round	4th round	Not qualify
94-95	4th	6th round	Winners	Not qualify
95-96	3rd	Runners-up	4th round	Uefa 2nd rd
96-97	4th	4th round	5th round	Uefa s-fnls
97-98	3rd	3rd round	Semi-final	Uefa 2nd rd

Compiled by John Baldock

There's no set rules about it, we've got to argue the case and, the time me and Gérard disagree, maybe Doug Livermore's got the right answer, or maybe Sammy Lee comes in. It's a new concept in England, or one that hasn't been particularly successful, but it works very well on the continent."

Pre-season form is never the most reliable guide to a team's fortunes when the real thing comes along, but it is impossible to get away from the fact that, as Houllier points out, there are still problems in Liverpool's defence. Of the three players signed during the summer, two - Steve Staunton and the Norwegian Vegard Heggem - are full-backs, but a central defender is the priority. Liverpool have been linked with at least half a dozen top names, from Jürgen Kohler to Taribo West, but they are still to get their man.

"The squad is never complete and we're on record as saying we're looking for somebody at the back," Evans said, "but it's been really tough getting somebody better than what we've already got and we're still looking. We've got a great squad as it is, but I think we can improve it by another player."

While Jamie Carragher is the favourite to start off alongside Phil

Babb in the heart of the defence, elsewhere Liverpool should be spoilt for choice, especially in midfield once Jamie Redknapp returns to full fitness. They may not have signed a new midfielder player, but, in Patrik Berger, Evans believes they may have one anyway. "Patrik's worked really hard over the summer," he said. "We've stressed to him the importance of his work for the team. With the ability he's got, and the finishing power, if he can put that together and work for the team then he's going to be a fantastic asset to us."

But inevitably the focus of most attention will be Michael Owen. At 18, can he sustain the sort of form he showed in his first full season, or will there be a reaction to his World Cup exploits?

In the recent friendly with Internazionale at Anfield, Owen reacted angrily to some challenges, weighing in with one or two wild lunges himself, and this season will be as much a test of his temperament as his strength.

"I think he's doing well," Evans said. "We know he's a sensible sort of guy, but what gets to him a little bit is being picked out from the rest of the team. He wants to be a team player, that's the whole basis of the

way he talks, so when he does get singled out it's a bit of an embarrassment for him. That part of it is difficult, but the rest he handles pretty well."

The task for Evans and Houllier will be to watch for signs of fatigue in Owen, but Evans said: "We said that last year, didn't we? We said we didn't expect him to play all the games but he did, and in the end he was strong enough mentally and physically. But again we've got to be aware throughout the season, if there's any loss of fitness or tiredness or if he gets too much attention from the media."

"No one wants to take Michael out of the limelight and say he can't do interviews full stop, but there's a limit to how much he can do. Occasionally he's going to have to say 'no', and I think that's only fair to him."

For Owen, at least, the sky still seems the limit and, although the old Anfield Boot Room is in the process of being renamed the Salle à Chausures, if an unlikely Anglo-French alliance can be made to work then Liverpool's own limits should extend as far as qualification for the Champions' League - at least.

"That's the status of this club," Evans added, "and the only thing we should be aiming for."

A moving delivery from the Estuary man

Postcards from the Beach
(Collins Willow, £6.99, paperback)
By Phil Tufnell

IF YOU fail to laugh when you buy this (and there is no question of you not buying it, if you know what's good for you) then you are sadly lacking in something.

As four diaries go, this collaboration with the Mail On Sunday cricket correspondent Peter Hayter is a rare bird, in that it works.

Tufnell appears happy, eager even, to let out a little more of his private self. The image of Estuary man with a habitual lag dangling from finger or mouth is one that has

BOOK OF THE WEEK

always sat a trifle uneasily on the Middlesex and England left-arm spinner's shoulders.

When you have read this entertaining, informative, absorbing account of last winter's journey to the West Indies, you put down the book and take up a completely new approach to the man.

He likes a laugh, but often at himself. His quoting of the England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Lord McLaurin's comment to him

when wishing the chaps well at the start of the tour sets the tone for the whole book: "Good luck Athers," said his Lordship. "Good luck Angus... Ah, Tufnell... you will try not to get into trouble, won't you?"

The running commentary during the Tests can border on the hilarious. Tufnell readying himself to face the West Indies fast bowling borders on the farcical - and yet he is so serious about it all.

There are fascinating revelations about dressing room superstition and, while Hayter and Tufnell capture the tension every time, they balance it with other odd moments.

The third Test is as good an example as any. England need 57 for victory, have six wickets in hand and Tufnell, already revealed as an appalling spectator, cannot bear it any longer. He decides to listen to a CD of dance music and so the tension eases. When it has played through: "I climb the stairs back to the dressing room, fifty two and a half minutes later," he writes, "to discover that during that time we have scored SEVEN RUNS. SEVEN [his capital letters]."

He also permits himself to criticise the umpires from time to time. But the book is also studded with moving moments and comments

from outside the game. Tufnell is an avid reader of local papers and from time to time the cricket is punctuated with odd, funny and sad tales from everyday Caribbean life.

When Atherton resigned from the captaincy Tufnell steers clear of outright sentimentality, while simultaneously expressing just how moved the England squad was when the news was broken to them.

If you are lucky enough you may be on a cricket ground where Tufnell, doing father of Poppy, husband to the long-suffering Lisa, and now author, will be available to sign it.

David Llewellyn

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Rothmans Football Yearbook 1998-99 Edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £17.99)
- 2 Rough Guide - Behind the Wheel with a Pro Cyclist By Paul Kim-mage (Yellow Jersey, paperback, £8.00)
- 3 Only A Game? By Eamon Dunphy (Penguin, paperback, £5.99)
- 4 Left Foot in the Grave By Garry Nelson (Collins Willow, paperback, £5.99)
- 5 1998-99 Official PFA Footballers Factfile Edited by Barry Hugman (Queen Anne Press, paperback, £12.99)
- 6 Postcards from the Beach By Phil Tufnell (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
- 7 The Sporting News Pro Football Guide 1998 (The Sporting News, paperback, £13.95)
- 8 Spread Betting By Andrew Burke (Rowton Press, paperback, £8.95)
- 9 The Gav'nor By Lenny McLean (Blake, hardback, £14.99)
- 10 The Inside Track - The Professional Approach By Alan Potts (Rowton Press, hardback, £18.00)

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604); and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8330). Website: www.sportspages.co.uk

Royle aware of City's limits

YOU WOULD not have known it from a sell-out crowd of more than 32,000 and ticket touts punting for spares, but these are hard times at Maine Road, leaving people to wonder whether they can be made easier and what the priorities are. "There is a lot of indignation about the place," Joe Royle, the City manager, said after Saturday's 3-0 victory at home to Blackpool.



KEN JONES

Royle felt that he had chosen the wrong word, but in truth it summed up Manchester City's predicament. After all, who gave them a second thought when Super League was revealed to be more than a remote possibility?

Depending on which source you listen to, City's debts could be anywhere between £12m and £20m and their chairman, David Bernstein, announced before Saturday's 3-0 defeat of Blackpool that there will soon be plenty of spare pegs in the dressing-room. "At least another 10 players will have to go," he said.

Towards the end of last season City had more dead wood than you would find on a rotting schooner, with 54 professional players. "We've got the squad down to 39, but we need to reduce further," Bernstein added.

The troubles that saw City plunge from sixth place in the Premiership to the Second Division in four seasons are perhaps best summed up by the fact that the playing staff includes players who were signed by four different managers.

Royle has been letting light in. "There were youngsters here who never got a chance to show whether they are up to it," he said. A bright midfielder, Gary Mason, who was only slightly behind Paul Dickov as

City's best player against Blackpool, had never got further than the third team. "The lad has ability and from the way he gets about the field he must have four lungs," Royle enthused.

Saturday emphasised the quite remarkable enthusiasm and loyalty of City's blue-clad supporters: a standing ovation for a relegated team and an energising response when things began to go flat in the second half. "They deserve so much more than they've had to put up with," Royle added.

Reality, however, is in a future list that served the old joke about going places this season: Macclesfield, Walsall, Chesterfield and Gillingham. "We've had things the wrong way round," Royle added. "Smashing stadium, big crowds, marvellous support, but no team. Without a team you are nothing. Today was a good start but a revival isn't going to happen overnight, so we mustn't get excited. I think we are on the right lines now, but climbing out of this division won't be easy."

So what about the indignation Royle referred to? "You are picking me up on one word," he said. "What I meant is that people have been deeply disappointed



Shawn Goater celebrates City's first goal with his team-mates at Maine Road on Saturday (above) while his manager, Joe Royle (right), considers the size of City's task in the Second Division this season



by what has happened here. It's difficult for them to accept what has happened. Maine Road can be a marvellous place to play, but some of those who were brought here couldn't handle the situation, never settled down."

Even if Royle succeeds in getting City back to the Premiership in three seasons, it would still leave them having to solve financial problems that cannot be met simply by reducing the wage bill.

Super League is inevitable and much closer than implied by guarded statements. Royle, however, does not think it affects the mood of City's supporters. "What they want is some idea of sensible progression," he said.

Progression will not embrace extravagance. Big names who figured in City's decline have departed; the dazzling Georgi Kinkladze to Ajax, for whom he recently scored a hat-trick, Uwe Rösler, Kit Symons, who took off for Fulham after refusing reduced terms.

Many of the faces in City's line-up now are unfamiliar to occasional observers and the collective method is best described as purposeful. Royle's most urgent task was to raise fitness levels.

"I don't think we'll be found out on that score, but players are not being sent out there just to run themselves into the ground," he said. "With the confidence that a good start brings,

I think we'll be able to play a bit."

Even so it was a while before City got the measure of a Blackpool team made up largely of players picked up on free transfers, finally breaking through when the visitors made the ancient mistake of not playing to the whistle. Supposing that a free-kick had been awarded, they stood still. Dickov did not, burning inside to set up Shawn Goater in the 26th minute.

Dickov's alert and energetic probing brought City a second just after an hour's play when he sprinted at the heart of Blackpool's defence to create an opening for Lee Bradbury, whose £3m transfer from Portsmouth last year has too often looked like a tribute to Terry Venables' shrewdness. The goal could not have impressed Royle because he quickly replaced Bradbury with Jim Whitley. Dickov went off too, but not before crossing for Kakhaber Tskhadadze to get City's third.

The crowd sang "Blue Moon", the sun shone and outside the ground a small boy asked if City were top of the league.

Goals: Goater (26), 1-0; Bradbury (62) 2-0; Tskhadadze (79) 3-0. Manchester City (3-5-2): Weaver; Tskhadadze, Whitley, Vaughan; Edgell, Mason, Pollack, Goater, Horlock, Dickov (Apost. 87). Bradbury (Jim Whitley, 67). Substitutes not used: Fenton. Blackpool (2-5-2): Barker, Bardsley, Butler, Hughes, Bryson, Blunt (Conroy, 58), Russell, Clarkson, Hills (Bent, 75). Midfield: Substitutes not used: Carlisle, Bookings. Blackpool: City Vaughan, Blackpool Clarkson, Blunt, Russell, Referees: G. Frankland (Middlesbrough). Notes of the match: Dickov. Attendance: 32,154.

Supporters turn on Fry after just one game

BY TREVOR HAYLETT

Peterborough United 0
Halifax Town 2

PERHAPS IT was the boiler-house temperatures that quickly instilled feelings of discomfort – or it could have been the World Cup, the shortened close season and the realisation that there has been no real break from the game.

Instead of first-day joy and optimism, we found at London Road a distinct mix of weariness and an uneasy, a mood of

rebellion among the locals that was brought on by early evidence that this was still the Peterborough of the second half of last season and not the cohesive unit that appeared certain for promotion at the midway point.

As for Halifax Town – the Football League's "newcomers", having reclaimed the place they lost five years ago, they are scarcely an example of harmony and togetherness themselves.

Since claiming their Conference title they have wit-

nessed controversial changes at board and managerial level and already a row has developed between the new player-manager Kieran O'Regan, who was only appointed last week, and Peter Butler, the former West Ham midfielder signed during the summer.

At the end of the afternoon the unavoidable conclusion was that it is easier to put aside internal division than it is to placate unhappy supporters.

When Peterborough failed to embellish their early dominance with the goals that

should have arrived for Jimmy Quinn twice inside the first 20 minutes, the home fans displayed any hope of expectation and tolerance they had nursed through the summer. Before the first half-time of the season, the calls were ringing out for Barry Fry to resign.

Fry's side – strangely for this most free-spending of managers a team virtually unchanged from that which finished the previous campaign – were justly booed off at the finish, which does not augur well for the long weeks to come.

"The fans should not be so impatient already," said the manager. "If they are true Peterborough supporters, they should get behind the players and give them a chance."

Halifax were good value for their win. Of course, it's far too early to say that they can follow where Macclesfield and Wycombe so impressively led (the last two Conference champions to be promoted to the League both managed to race right through the bottom tier into the Second Division) but this will do for starters.

It is also hard to make assumptions based on a team missing their player-manager through suspension, their inspiration-in-chief Jamie Paterson through injury and one forced to field three midfield players all new to the club and all holding one-month contracts.

"All things considered it has been an interesting first week in charge, but I've told the players to distance themselves from what is going on behind the scenes, and this was a great response," said O'Regan. Butler was injured on Saturday,

but in any case is said to be refusing to play because he expected to be given coaching duties with the first team.

Yet, for all their problems, they showed that they possess a striking partnership of skill and understanding.

First Dave Hanson – who thought his career was over due to a back problem during his first season as a professional with Manchester United – capitalised on Mick Bodley's slip to give the visitors the lead.

Then Geoff Horsfield, whose 34 goals last season did nothing

to quieten talk among some of the club's supporters that the move up to the professional game was a step too far added a second late on.

One more perplexing note: why are Halifax, home of the largest building society, sponsored by the Nationwide?

Goals: Hanson (48) 0-1, Horsfield (77) 0-2. Peterborough United (4-4-2): Fry, Scott, Bodley, Edwards, Madsen; Frost (44) 1-1, Payne (Hooper, 67), Laidlaw, Houghton, Carruthers (Granol, 75), Owen. Halifax Town (3-5-2): Martin, Thackray, Brown, Stammers, Hulse; Bradbury, Conroy, Lucas, Murphy, Hirst; Horsfield. Substitutes not used: Price, Carter, Strand. Referees: E. Lomas (Manchester). Notes of the match: Hanson. Attendance: 5,746.

French find discreet ways to prolong World Cup euphoria

IF, AS most Frenchmen agree, winning the World Cup matched Liberation as their nation's greatest day, then why are they not celebrating it properly? Or maybe they really are superior beings to the rest of us when it comes to discretion and subtlety.

Even us Francophiles who cheered ourselves hoarse, doing our utmost to raise the ultra-modernised roof from the Stade de France on that glorious night a month ago, deluding ourselves that we had always had a few drops, at least, of French blood coursing through our veins, may never completely understand their way of doing things over here.

On the night of their team's astonishing 3-0 win over Brazil, a few French men and women did go a little berserk. Thousands who had never been to a football match in France spent the next two days cavorting, dancing on cars, bringing traffic to a standstill, simply because France had won a football match.

But whereas many football-obsessed Englishmen would have used the occasion – as they must surely did 32 years ago – as an excuse to get paralytic for months on end, the French have contained their

New supporters are attracted as the season starts across the Channel.

By Nicholas Harling in Nancy

euphoria. Never was that more evident than at the weekend when the new domestic league campaign got underway.

Perversely, perhaps, for a nation that has established itself as the world's best, only four of France's World Cup squad were involved. Two Monaco players, Fabien Barthez and Thierry Henry, helped their team defeat Lorient 2-1 on Friday, and two from Olympique Marseille, Laurent Blanc and Robert Pires, a new arrival from Metz, featured in their team's 2-0 win over Nantes on Saturday.

With more crowds such as the record-equalling 58,000 at the Stade Velodrome in Marseilles, French clubs might eventually be able to persuade their top earners to stay instead of following players like Zinedine Zidane, their two-goal hero in the final, to Italy.

"Allez les Bleus" was the cry during the World Cup but only a select few supporters chose to wear their national team's blue shirt on opening day. Nor were

tricolor flags greatly in evidence. Several fans at Nancy, for instance, sported their club colours, among them those with the name of Cascarino emblazoned on the back. The Irish international duly obliged, putting his side ahead in the match against Sochaux, another promoted club.

Not even an injury-time equaliser could completely dampen the spirits of the 35-year-old veteran of two World Cup campaigns. "Shot, what shot?" Cascarino asked of his puny 65th-minute effort, certainly no blockbuster, that trickled over the line just before it was hacked clear.

In more serious mode, Cascarino revealed his pleasure at participating among World Cup winners. "I got caught up with it," he admitted. "There was a good night when France beat Croatia in the semi-final but we were in serious training by the time of the final. I actually tipped France to win. I'm only disappointed I didn't have a bet on them."

"But the mood hasn't let up. The feeling for football is still there and that has to be good for the game here. Take this club, for instance. We've doubled our season-ticket sales and that isn't only because we have gone up. The World Cup has had a lot to do with it."

And so it has, even at Nancy, whose World Cup connections are tenuous in the extreme; the club has links with the new national team coach, Roger Lemerre, and two of his predecessors, the illustrious Michel Platini and the World Cup-winning Aimé Jacquet. This season a substantial group of fans have formed what is known as the Collectif Nancien behind one of the goals in the Marcel Picot Stadium.

Preferring a seat in the main stand was Anne Routy, a 33-year-old housewife who had joined her husband Jean-Marie at a match for the first time. She was clad neither in her club nor her country's colours but had needed no persuading to make her debut. "It is because we are the best," she explained, having formed her opinion from endless hours of watching World Cup games on television. "Before I didn't think I liked places with a lot of people. It



Bordeaux's Ali Benarbia finds himself outnumbered by Paris St-Germain's Pierre Ducrocq (left) and Bruno Carotti on Saturday as the French League season got underway. Bordeaux won the match 3-1

made me afraid, perhaps, but now that I know it is safe I will come another day with my children."

Madame Routy and her infants will be safe, presumably, so long as they keep well out of the way of the Nancy groundsman when he is cutting the grass on the pitch. Judging by the skew-whiff shades of green where his mower went awry, one man, at least, seems to

have been keeping up his World Cup celebrations. But then, was there ever a more justifiable cause?

Goals: Cascarino 65 (1-0); Flawion 90 (1-1). Nancy (4-4-2): Roux, Ferreira (Radjiz, 78), Lecluse, Hugues, Merli, Moracchi, Boulton (Rousselle, 68), Bencher, Kone, Cascarino, Watt (Ramba, 84). Sochaux (4-4-2): Fernandez, Raschia, Merli, Fiches, Martin (Ribe, 69), Chaboud, Ched (Dedobert, 61), Sarrail (Ribe, 69). Bordeaux: Vireaux, Vandecasteele, Bencher, Sochaux, Lohay. Referees: M. Colombo. Notes of the match: Bencher. Attendance: 8,000.

Honess backs 2000 start for new league

BY RUPERT METCALF

THE MUCH touted European super league, featuring the continent's top clubs, will kick-off in 2000, according to Bayern Munich's general manager, Uli Hoesess.

The lucrative tournament will replace the current Champions' League and will comprise 32 clubs, Hoesess, the former West German international forward, said. "In 2000, the Super League will mark the start of a new decade for football," he added. "There will be 32 clubs, 16 of which will be automatic members while the other 16 will have to qualify."

The format described by Hoesess was identical to the one suggested by Italian newspaper Tuttosport last week. "The concept is finalised," Hoesess said. "Clubs and investors meet two or three times a month to talk about it, and I'm convinced that a decision will be announced before the end of the year." Bayern Munich, Hoesess's club, are one of the leading members of the proposed league.

Polish football came to a virtual standstill at the weekend as clubs demanded the resignation of Marian Dziurowicz, the president of the national football federation (PZPN). Only one match, a 1-0 home

win for GKS Katowice over Ruch Radzionkow, took place. The other seven scheduled fixtures were postponed as the clubs demanded the resignation of Dziurowicz, following the last-minute deal he brokered with the Polish government on Friday night aimed at averting a ban by Fifa, world football's ruling body, on all Polish teams taking part in international competition.

Fifa had threatened the ban if the Polish government did not reinstate sacked PZPN officials by a midnight deadline on Friday. Fourteen minutes before the expiry of the deadline, Poland's sports minister, Jacek Debski, said he had informed the world body that the officials, who had been dismissed after the PZPN had refused to allow the ministry inspect its accounts, had been reinstated.

During the attempts to resolve the four-month row, nine of Poland's 16 First Division teams had demanded the reinstatement of the PZPN board – but threatened to boycott their games unless Dziurowicz resigned. One of the teams, LKS Lodz, are due to face Manchester United in a Champions' League qualifier at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Fifa is to announce its verdict today on the Polish teams' participation in international tournaments.

Arsenal show United little charity

BY GLENN MOORE
at Wembley

Arsenal 3
Manchester United 0

PREDICTING A season on the basis of the Charity Shield is like assessing a novel after reading the opening chapter. Although Arsenal defeated Manchester United with comfort at Wembley yesterday, there will be twists and turns aplenty in the plot over the next 10 months and the only sure bet is that neither of these main characters will be killed off until the end.

Even so, a few early storylines could be detected through the heat haze of a balmy Wembley afternoon. Jaap Stam will take a while to settle into Manchester United's defence, while Arsène Wenger will disturb Arsenal's at his peril. Teddy Sheringham may be in for a miserable season, while Nicolas Anelka could have a sensational one; and David Beckham will be abused the length and breadth of the country.

Arsenal's goals came from Marc Overmars after 34 minutes, Christopher Wreh after 61 and Anelka 11 minutes later. The first kindled memories of the Dutch striker's decisive strike at Old Trafford in March and, since it changed the balance of the match, proved just as crucial. With United forced to push forward, Wreh and Anelka both took advantage of Arsenal's quick and intelligent counter-attacking.

An hour and a half chasing the double-winners around Wembley's broad acres in 30-degree heat was not the ideal preparation for United's European date on Wednesday with the Polish champions LKS Lodz, but their defeat cannot entirely be attributed to having half an eye on that.

The nature of the opposition ensured they would not be taking it easy and the opening skirmishes saw Gary Neville becoming Graham Poll's first victim of the season after just three minutes. Martin Keown and Denis Irwin followed before the half-hour and Phil Neville and Lee Dixon later joined them.

Of the six Englishmen among the 15 World Cup participants who got a taste of action, Beckham, inevitably, received most attention. Boomed and abused throughout from the Arsenal fans at the western end of the ground, he had a quiet match but at least never reacted to the provocation.

Alongside him Roy Keane, restored to the captaincy after injury, quietly eased himself back into serious action, although one unceremonious dumping on the turf of Overmars, who had had the temerity to dispossess him, showed he remains a player it is unwise to take liberties with.

With the sides so evenly matched the game took a while to catch light as both sides looked to hold the ball in midfield before releasing, using



United's Jaap Stam (left) and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel can only watch as Nicolas Anelka scores Arsenal's third goal in the Charity Shield at Wembley yesterday

Reuters

their attacking pace. With Arsenal's offside trap quickly into their groove, and United's midfield holding tight, it was more than half an hour before either goalkeeper was tested. Then Dennis Bergkamp, drifting across the face of the goal 20 yards out, brought a decent diving save from Peter Schmeichel.

Three minutes later, the Dutchman ran on to Patrick Vieira's through ball. His back-heal, on the junction of the six-yard box, duped Stam and Ronny Johnsen, under pressure from Anelka, could only hit his clearance as far as Overmars. He drilled the ball past Schmeichel first time from just inside the area.

Keane, from 25 yards, finally brought David Seaman into the game three minutes from the break but Arsenal quickly regained control in the second period, Dixon and Ray Parlour both threatened before Overmars

broke down the left, beating Gary Neville and drawing the United defence. He slipped the ball to Anelka, who turned to transfer it to Wreh, who had lost Stam. Schmeichel saved the first effort, but not the second.

Keown nearly turned Ryan Giggs' corner, flicked on by Johnsen, into his own net as United lifted their game, but as both sides combated the heat with mass substitutions, it was Arsenal who scored again. This

time Parlour played the ball through the centre to Anelka, who bemused Stam before scoring inside Schmeichel's near post.

Sheringham had United's best chance to restore pride but wasted

it. The early sharpness of Scholes, preferred as Cole's striking partner, the decision to use Ole Gunnar Solskjaer before him; Jesper Blomqvist's imminent return to fitness, thus freeing Giggs for a central role; and the prospect of further striking reinforcements all suggest Sheringham may struggle to regain his club place, let alone his England one. By contrast, Anelka's goal showed his growing maturity as well as his pace. "I believe in him," Wenger said. No wonder.

Both managers said afterwards that they were still searching for another forward, to "strengthen the squad", rather than replace the incumbents. Alex Ferguson also professed himself pleased with Stam. He could hardly say otherwise, but he and Brian Kidd will doubtless be working hard on the 210m Dutchman's porous partnership with

Johnsen over the next few weeks.

This was the first time a southern club had won the Shield outright since Spurs in 1962. It was also United's first defeat in seven Shield matches dating back to 1985, when they lost to Everton. That year one of the absent powers, Liverpool, went on to win the Double. While Arsenal looked impressive, and Manchester United shaky, the best comment on the relevance of yesterday's exhibition came from Ladbroke's. "The odds remain unchanged, both sides are 2-1 joint favourites," a spokesman said. Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman, Dixon, Adams (Bould, 78), Keown, Winterburn, Parlour, Vieira (Crimmell, 83), Petit (Boa Morte, 72), Overmars (Hughes, 66), Bergkamp (Wreh 44), Anelka. Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel, Neville, Stam, Johnsen, Irwin, Beckham, Keown (Berr, 73), Butt (Scholes, 53), Giggs (Gylfi, 69), Scholes (P. Neville, 69), Cole. Referee: G. Poll (Ting). Bookings: Arsenal Keown, Dixon, Manchester United G. Neville, Irwin, P. Neville. Man of the match: Overmars. Attendance: 67,342.



Arsenal fans give David Beckham a taste of the sort of welcome he can expect all season

PA

Self-belief will be Watford's main weapon

BY PETER CONCHIE

Portsmouth 1
Watford 2

THE EDITOR of Portsmouth's club programme, *Chimes*, was indulging in some mischievous wish-fulfilment with the premature publication of the First Division table in his opening-day issue. In the absence of any points won or goals scored, Pompey appeared in 15th place while, by dint of name alone, Watford were in the relegation zone above West Brom and Wolves.

Unintimidated by this alphabetical slight, Graham Taylor's team served notice that, come the end of the season, these positions are much more likely to be reversed.

The two clubs almost passed each other at the end of last season on opposite sides of the door marked relegation and promotion, with only a last-day win at Bradford preventing an inglorious exit for Alan Ball's side. In contrast, Watford's confidence is high; they were promoted as champions of the Second Division after only six

defeats, and this residual self-belief will serve them well.

"I'm realistic enough to know that there are defeats facing us in this division," Taylor said. "This is the easiest division to get relegated from and the hardest to get promoted from."

If Watford continue to perform as they did at Fratton Park on Saturday, they should be safe on both fronts. On a glorious afternoon, on which the weather outshone the often poor quality of football, Watford punched a win which, for most of the game, looked unlikely.

Portsmouth took the lead after 30 minutes. The Australian international, John Aloisi, last year's top scorer, jinked past his marker and scored a cool right-footed shot across Chamberlain from just inside the area.

With 10 minutes remaining, an extravagant own-goal by Andy Thomson brought Watford level. Then, with a little over five minutes left, Jason Lee nodded home after a deep cross from Bazeley, his gentle downward header beating Aaron Flahavan at the near post.

Both Ball and Taylor have spent thrifly over the summer. Portsmouth spent just £200,000 to secure the Dane, Thomas Thøgersen, from Brøndby and the nippy Nikos Kyzeridis from the Greek side, Paniliakos. Watford, meanwhile, have the 31-year-old Democratic Republic of Congo international, Michel Nganga, ready to step in for Lee should he be needed.

It probably will not be an easy - or particularly pretty - season for either of these teams or their high-profile managers, but Watford at least should

survive. For Portsmouth, however, the proud chant of "Play up Pompey", which rang around the ground for almost the entire match, may have to be amended to a rather more sober "Stay up Pompey".

Goals: Aloisi (30) 1-0; Thomson og (60) 1-1; Lee (84) 1-2. Portsmouth (4-2-2): Flahavan, Vlachos, Simpson (Robinson, 81), Thøgersen, Thomson, McDougall (Soley, 81), Hillier, Axford, Durnill, Kyzeridis (Perkins, 74), Aloisi. Watford (4-4-2): Chamberlain; Kennedy, Hazan, Papp, Mooney, Eaton, Hyde, Palmer (Mullen, 79), Smart (Bazeley, 67); Rosenthal, Lee. Substitutes not used: Noel-Williams. Referee: F. Stretton (Nottingham). Man of the match: Simpson. Attendance: 15,275.

Barnsley lack both focus and fluency

BY NEIL BRAMWELL

Barnsley 2
West Bromwich Albion 2

LITTLE DID Barnsley's supporters think on adopting the anthem "It's just like watching Brazil", that it would also apply to the post-convulsions Brazil of the World Cup final.

For not only did their side display the same unpredictability that the South American showed against France, the opening fixture illustrated that Barnsley, too, could struggle to effectively replace their own talisman.

Neil Redfearn's departure to Charlton did not create the same international shock waves as Ronaldo's difficulties, but the headache of the new Barnsley manager, John Hendrie, will linger.

In Robbie van der Laan, Barnsley have replicated Redfearn's offensive thrust and Kevin Richardson effectively imitates his defensive work ethic. The combination of the two players, however, still failed to recreate Redfearn's individual sparkle.

The result was that Barnsley were most threatening at set pieces, in stark contrast to their fluent approach of last season which consistently managed to unlock the secured defences of the Premiership. With striker Ashley Ward on the sidelines through injury, there was little focus to the attack and it was no coincidence that both goals were caused by a defender's head.

West Bromwich, while under the cosh for long periods of the game, displayed the air of a side that had seen it all before. Happy to accept the gifts lav-

ished on them by the Barnsley defence, Denis Smith's side also showed enough evidence that competent organisation could be turned into dangerous potency with a touch more self-belief.

Smith was certainly urging a less hectic approach. "At times we went a little bit too long in the second half when there was room to go through Richard Sneekes in midfield," he reflected. The tortuous arrival of the Italians Enzo Maresca and Mario Bortolazzi should provide even greater emphasis on quality time on the ball.

Both signings, however, are proving difficult to complete. "Bortolazzi has the knee of a 33-year-old footballer and we will be looking at that and discussing it with his agent and everybody else who turns up. Enzo has signed but we can't get clearance from Italy," Smith said.

Hendrie had two great chances to mark his first game in charge with goals after Sneekes' spectacular volley eased early Albion nerves. Their second was the goal of a thrilling game, Jimmy Quinn finished a strong Kevin Kilbane run with an emphatic strike. Arjan de Zeeuw equalised twice with clean headers, the first a glancing effort, the second late in the match, both from Darren Bernard crosses.

Goals: Sneekes (13) 0-1, De Zeeuw (22) 1-1, Quinn (45) 1-2, De Zeeuw (87) 2-2. Barnsley (4-4-2): Watson; Eaden, De Zeeuw, Moxes, Jones; Van der Laan, Richardson, Liddell, Bernard, Hendrie (W. Sneekes 35). Substitutes not used: I. Burt. West Bromwich Albion (4-4-2): Miller, Marlon, Carbone, Murphy, Van Blerk, Quinn, Fynn, Sneekes, Kilbane, Eaden, Hughes. Substitutes not used: Quate, Angell, Burgess. Bookings: Barnsley Jones, Bernard. West Bromwich Albion Van Blerk. Attendance: 18,114. Referee: E. Wolstenholme (Blackburn). Man of the match: Van der Laan.

Gray buries Wembley demons

BY SCOTT BARNES

Sunderland 1
Queen's Park Rangers 0

OVERSHADOWING THE result was the injury, Lee Clark's broken ankle means that Sunderland, the pre-season favourites for the First Division crown, will be without their playmaker until Christmas.

"He makes us tick," his team-mate Michael Gray said. "He opens up defences. Some massive clubs were after him during the summer, and anyone of his calibre is going to be missed in any team."

For 37 minutes the former Newcastle player graced the Stadium of Light, standing out as Queen's Park Rangers sat back lying deep, his back four put the ball at his feet and he sent it intelligently towards the head of Niall Quinn, the chests of the wingers Mick Summerbee and Allan Johnston or the feet of Kevin Phillips.

The game was much poorer after Clark's departure on a stretcher following Keith Rowland's clumsy but not malicious challenge. Clark's natural replacement, Alex Rae, is still three weeks away from fitness after a hernia operation and, though Darren Williams filled in competently, it is doubtful

whether the 21-year-old Teessider is mature enough to become the powerhouse of a promotion chasing side. Peter Reid gave doubts to two Elm signings - Thomas Sørensen in goal and co-nonsense Paul Butler in central defence - and may well have to spend some more.

Overlooked in the flurry over the injury was the rehabilitation of Gray, who had a black day at Wembley at the end of last season when his scuffed penalty ended Sunderland's Premiership ambitions. Switching flanks to a accommodate the return at left-back of Martin Scott after 18 months and 10 abdominal operations, Ray Harford, Rangers' manager, identified Gray as the highest threat to the massed ranks of his defence.

Gray's performance was characterised by a flashing 25 yard drive that flew just wide from an unlikely angle in the first half and an 87th minute shimmy and run that ended with a tame shot when the ultra-loyal supporters were sucking him goalwards with his noise.

"The crowd was fantastic," he said. "I've had at least 800 letters and faxes, so many I can't reply to them all, and they kept on coming through the summer. I even got one from Dennis

Tueart at Manchester City, saying I was to keep my head up and that I had a big enough character to get over it. And the lads in the team have been superb. The gaffer took me away for a weekend with Lee Clark to get away from things."

Despite the injury to Clark the home side secured a positive result, secured by Phillips' late penalty. However, Quinn might have pushed Lee Harford into dropping the ball before Ian Barnsclough, who was sent off, felt forced to clear Williams' goalbound stah with his hand. It means Sunderland have won their first opening game in nine years - certainly a better start than last season when five defeats in their first 10 games effectively condemned them to the play-offs.

"It might not have been a convincing win," Phillips said, "but at this point in the season it doesn't matter how you play, as long as you get the results."

Goals: Phillips (pen 75) 1-0. Sunderland (4-4-2): Sørensen; Gray, Craddock, Butler, Scott, Summerbee (Bates, 88), Ball, Clark (Williams, 38), Johnston, Quinn, Phillips. Substitutes not used: Ditchie. Queen's Park Rangers (4-4-1): Harford; Hendrie, Scott, Peacock, Murray, Rowland, Guller. Substitutes not used: Kulkac, Rose, Matthews, C. J. Fox (12 Holes). Bookings: Sunderland: Scott, Queen's Park Rangers: Madala, Peacock, Rowland. Sending off: Queen's Park Rangers: Barnsclough. Man of the match: Gray. Attendance: 41,008.

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JP 11/10/98



SPORT

BAISTER'S RUGBY REVOLUTION P19 • ARSENAL'S FLYING START P24

Fifth Test: This morning England need two wickets to win, South Africa require 34 runs. The series is in the balance.

Gough sets up a thrilling finale

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at HeadingleyEngland 230 and 240
South Africa 253 and 185-8

FOUR DAYS of oppressive and enthralling tension and Headingley has yet to yield its secrets and a series victory desperately needed by both sides, still hangs in the balance. No sport can provide such cliffhanging drama as cricket and today both sides return to see who will prevail.

While the equation is simple enough - South Africa need 34 runs while England need to take two wickets - the outcome of the drama is not: the match could take anything between two balls and two hours, to be decided.

With the visitors' score on 185 for 8 and an 11,000-strong crowd urging on England and in particular Darren Gough, there was a case for claiming the extra half-hour. But with the bowler having taken five wickets, South Africa were forced to proceed with due care and attention, England could have claimed they could that victory was a possibility inside that time. When the option was offered, Alec Stewart, his main bowlers weary to the point of exhaustion, chose to call it a day, a move which prompted South Africa to send out their 12th man to tell their batsmen to stay on.

The psychology was obvious, but after a brief consultation, the umpires decided that Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald's request to stay on was simply a ploy to take advantage of England's tiredness rather than a bona fide attempt to win the game, and they called time.

If there was any disappointment on the part of the spectators it was not evident as they cheered the players off. Those lucky enough to have followed the match on all four days will have thrilled at the potboiler that has unfolded here.

The match has been in constant flux with first one team and then the other coming to a flop, a brace of wickets, or a flurry of boundaries shifting the balance of power.

With England's remaining six batsmen adding only 34 runs to their overnight score, after another stupendous effort from Donald and Pollock, South Africa needed 219 runs to win.

In such situations the visitors often bat to a pre-conceived plan. In the first innings, they tended to alternate limpets, like Gary Kirsten and Hansie Cronje, with shotplayers, like Darryl Cullinan and



Darren Gough kneels triumphantly as the South African wicketkeeper, Mark Boucher, becomes his 101st Test victim at Headingley yesterday

David Ashdown

Jonty Rhodes. Yesterday, after Gough and Fraser reduced them to 27 for 3, that plan had to be scrapped.

It was Gough, roared on by his home crowd who took the first wicket just before lunch. Nipping one back into Gerry Liebenberg, he won the latest in a line of dubious low decisions from Javed Akhtar and like Atherton, TV replays showed that the ball had taken the inside-edge. After the break, Gough quickly removed Kirsten, after the left-hander had sliced his cover drive to Atherton at gully.

It was the start of a purple patch for England's bowlers who took 3 for 0 in 17 balls. Fraser, who looked tired from his ex-

ertions in the first innings, saw Jacques Kallis hit round a straight ball. If that was plumb, the faint edge that took Cronje's bat was less conclusive and the South African captain was clearly unhappy with the decision.

With Cullinan following soon after to yet another low, South Africa were 27 for 5 and struggling and England were clear favourites. As a committed Christian, Jonty Rhodes is probably not a betting man. If he was, he is unlikely to have put much on himself and the remaining batsmen winning the game.

But if the mountain looked hostile, Rhodes went for his strokes. Finding a able and stubborn ally in Brian McMillan, Rhodes pushed England on

to the back foot, taking two fours in three balls from the tiring Fraser.

Forced by circumstance to give Ian Salisbury a bowl, Stewart could do little to stem the runs now streaming from Rhodes' bat. Salisbury went for 34 runs off 8 overs, which included one six and five fours.

Yet Stewart kept his men going well and when Dominic Cork forced McMillan, on 54, to splice his hook shot to the England captain, it lifted the whole team.

However, the key wicket was still Rhodes' and when Gough had him caught at short mid-wicket by Andrew Flintoff, the Western Terrace erupted in delight. The dismissal gave

Gough his 100th Test wicket. More importantly it gave a flagging England side renewed belief, a feeling that was in stark contrast to the one earlier in the day when their batting had been steam-rollered by South Africa's pacemen.

After Hussain's skilful and tenacious batting on Saturday had nudged England ahead on points, South Africa knew that much more occupation would put them out of the match. Re-summing on 83, Hussain watched a hapless procession as the home side lost six wickets for 34 runs.

Donald and Pollock, who finished the series with 33 and 18 wickets respectively, know what it is to dig deep, but after 10 months of solid cricket, their minds and bodies would have

walking off he appeared to be consumed with grief. A passionate man there were probably tears in the dressing-room.

The enormity of their situation may have got to England's batsmen overnight for their demise was as much down to poor shots as fine bowling. Salisbury, out to the second ball of the morning feeding a snorter from Pollock, opened the trapdoor through which Graeme Hick, Andrew Flintoff and even Hussain fell in a flurry of ill-chosen shots.

Donald and Pollock, who finished the series with 33 and 18 wickets respectively, know what it is to dig deep, but after 10 months of solid cricket, their minds and bodies would have

had little capacity left for heroics. Wary, and no doubt dejected that the previous day's efforts had yielded just four wickets, they somehow raised themselves for a last hurrah.

If they can do it again, today, this time with the bat, their legend is assured.

Henry Blofeld, page 21
Scoreboards,
pages 20 and 21

SCOREBOARD

England won test
England - First innings 230 (MA Butcher 116, M Ntini 4-72)

South Africa - First innings 253 (W Cronje 57, A R C Fraser 5-172)

England - Second innings (Friday: 2 for 0)

M A Butcher c McMillan b Pollock 37 (150 min, 107 balls, 5 fours)

M A Atherton bow b Donald 1 (3 min, 4 balls)

N Hussain c Cronje b Pollock 94 (130 min, 341 balls, 13 fours)

A J Stewart c Boucher b Pollock 35 (103 min, 68 balls, 7 fours)

M R Rampersad bow b Pollock 25 (98 min, 75 balls, 4 fours)

D K Salisbury c Boucher b Pollock 4 (21 min, 11 balls, 1 four)

G A Hick c Kirsten b Donald 1 (17 min, 7 balls)

A Flintoff c Boucher b Donald 10 (2 min, 5 balls)

O G Cork c Boucher b Donald 10 (57 min, 36 balls, 2 fours)

O Gough c Cullinan b Donald 5 (23 min, 15 balls, 1 four)

A R C Fraser not out 1 (8 min, 4 balls)

England 230 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th)

South Africa - Second innings

G Kirsten c Atherton b Gough 3 (65 min, 24 balls)

G P J Liebenberg bow b Gough 6 (18 min, 15 balls, 1 four)

J H Kallis bow b Fraser 3 (20 min, 15 balls)

D J Cullinan bow b Gough 0 (29 min, 13 balls)

W J Cronje c Stewart b Fraser 0 (9 min, 5 balls)

N Hussain c Flintoff b Gough 85 (214 min, 147 balls, 10 fours, 1 six)

B M McMillan c Stewart b Cork 54 (153 min, 120 balls, 8 fours)

S M Pollock not out 24 (78 min, 54 balls, 1 four)

M V Boucher bow b Gough 2 (22 min, 8 balls)

A A Donald not out 2 (10 min, 8 balls)

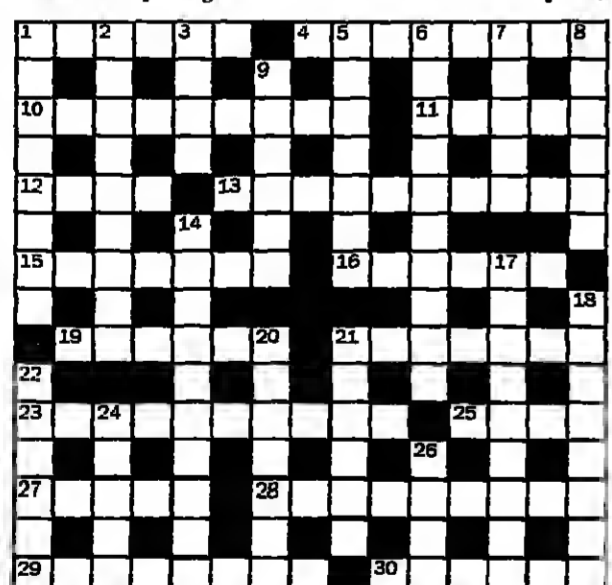
South Africa 185 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th)

Umpires: Javed Akhtar and P Willey.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3685, Monday 10 August

By Paria



28 Are upset about Henry going in the river (9)
29 Date of match isn't changeable (2,6)
30 Sounds like evergreen holiday island (6)

DOWN

1 Agree with increase and settle the account (6,2)
2 Property conveyance (6,3)
3 Fish from flat-bottomed boat (4)
4 Clear army officer's involved in retreat (7)
5 Summary of journalist's brief to be taken out (10)
6 Get key file (5)
7 At the end of it one's had enough (6)
8 Hear doctor's on the trot (2,4)
14 Craig's due round but is somehow put off (10)
17 Clergyman's put together positive modern alternative (9)
18 Ship elite military unit out of a North American state (6)
20 Stay to find out pastor's intention (7)
21 Careless and underhand about work's money (6)
22 Issue of flexibility (6)
24 Hacks coming from a paper I despise (5)
26 Anonymous English poet (4)

ACROSS
1 Quick run-down's interrupted by party leader (6)
4 Poles note slang name of mollusc (8)
10 Total number included in expert's statement (9)
11 Found name of tenor (5)
12 Girl's hard-hearted no less (4)
13 Tries a cold pud cooked for dessert (7,3)
15 Fellow off work obtains ointment (7)
16 Repeats run, a short time back (6)
19 French head of arbitration service causes uproar (6)
21 Grizzly female? (3-4)
23 Novel religious belief (10)
25 Feel sure about Greek character (4)
27 Home help's retiring to the country (5)

Hundred up for local hero

DARREN GOUGH is confident England can claim the two wickets needed to win the fifth Test today and clinch a 2-1 series victory over South Africa.

Gough joined the Test-wicket century club as he took 5 for 36 to put England on the brink of victory in the decider at Headingley.

"I could go either way," said Gough. "But I've got to back my own ability - and the ability of Angus and Corky - to beat them. There's always a little bit there in the pitch. The trouble is that the ball went soft really quickly."

"But we kept going - bowlers and fielders - and hopefully tomorrow we can get two wickets. Either side could have claimed the extra half hour - or eight overs - but Gough said: 'We were always going to come off.'"

"The bowlers had worked hard and it's not the kind of pitch where you can just rock up there and bowl on a good length."

"You really have to hit the pitch hard to get anything out of the wicket, especially if the ball has gone soft."

Gough was delighted to have produced a potential match-winning performance at Headingley, where he has not always done himself justice in the past.

"Some people say I get carried away in front of my home crowd but I think I've proved a few people wrong today," he added.

"I've matured as a cricketer and I'm really pleased with today's performance. It's good to come good on my home ground and get us wickets at vital times."

DARREN GOUGH FACT FILE

Born: 18 Sept 1970 at Monk Bretton, near Barnsley.
Height: 5ft 11in.
Weight: 12st 8lb.
County: Yorkshire.
Role: Right-hand bat, right-arm fast bowler.
Family: Wife Anna-Marie and son Liam (born November 1994).
1991: Offered a contract by Yorkshire and VFA from by Nottingham United FC, but chooses cricket.
1989: Takes five wickets on first-class debut v Middlesex at Lord's.
1993: Wins county cap after claiming 7 for 42 v Somerset at Taunton.
1994: Test debut v New Zealand at Old Trafford. Scores Test best 65.
1995: Hits a quickfire half-century and claims 6 for 49 for England v Australia at Perth.

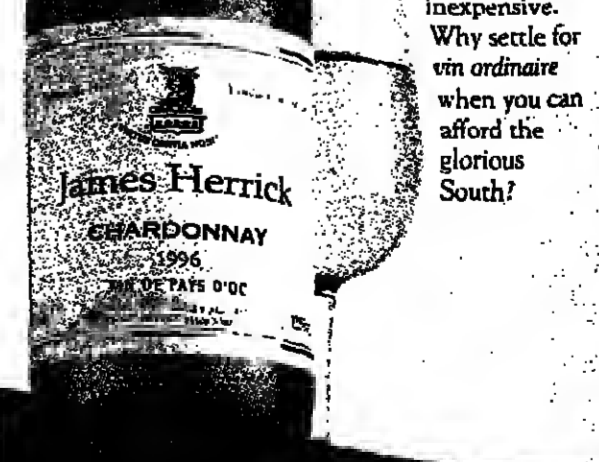
Perth. Tour cut short with stress fracture in the foot. Injury repeated as misses half the series v West Indies.
1996: Overlooked for Test series against India and Pakistan, recalled for winter tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand.
1997: England's most successful bowler in the opening three Tests v Australia with 16 wickets but ruled out for rest of series with inflamed left knee. Hamstring strain then forces withdrawal from England's winter tour of the Caribbean.
1998: England's man of the series in Test 200 Trophy v South Africa. Breaks index finger on right hand fending off short-pitched ball from Allan Donald in first Test and releases second Test takes 5 for 54, including his 100th Test wicket, as England and South Africa battle for victory in fifth Test at Headingley.

If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France.

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THE INDEPENDENT

10 August 1998

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Because I'm worth it

Low self-esteem has never been a problem for Anne Robinson. Even the recent criticism of BBC's *Watchdog* is only a blip in her spectacularly successful pursuit of wealth and fame. But how does someone so bossy come to terms with the shambles of everyday life?

Anne Robinson has just got back from a week's holiday in Greece, and is about to go "walking" in Switzerland. Anne Robinson mostly divides her time between a totally exquisite, listed mews house in Kensington and a big country place in Gloucestershire with an indoor swimming pool and two dishwashers. (One is on the go.) She drives a new Mercedes. She dresses in Armani and Joseph. She earns pots of money, and is even said to be the highest paid female journalist even what with her various newspaper columns (currently *The Times*) and her TV programmes (BBC's *Watchdog* and *Weekend Watchdog*, and until recently *Points of View*). She is hairdressed and manicured and facialed at least three times a week. She flies Concorde, first-class. Am I spectacularly jealous? Not a bit of it. I am, as it happens, very much looking forward to going to Fishguard for my holidays this year. Plus I have quite a few points on my *Bhs* collectors' card, which is something Anne does not have. "I don't go to *Bhs*, actually," she is forced to concede.

Still, I find I'm terribly interested in how Anne has done it. How have you done it, Anne? "Well, I know my worth and I make it my business to ensure that I'm rewarded at an appropriate rate," she says. How do you know your worth? "I can't really answer that. I just do." So you're a tough negotiator, then? "Oh yes. Aren't you?" No, I say, I'm useless. I go in intending to ask for a rise but



THE
DEBORAH ROSS
INTERVIEW

come out having agreed to do twice the work for half the money, and gratefully so. I'm quite pathetic, really. I should start my own programme, *Botchjob*, in which people like me set out determined to get more but just mess up completely.

Anne looks at me pityingly, and sighs. I don't think we've quite bonded yet. She says: "I believe that women's greatest strength is in their earning power. It gives them freedom." Freedom to do what? "To do what you want. I do despair of some of our sisters. I don't think they operate in a business-like way. You have to go to the hairdressers. You have to have a manicure. What hairdresser do you go to?" "I don't. I say, I find a quick singe of my fringe every time I light a fag off the gas cooker keeps it largely in check." "I see," she says.

Anne Robinson might be quite cold, humourless and unteachable. Alternatively, she just isn't warming to me. I don't think I'm going to get one of those *Points of View* winks, frankly. Although, that said, it's not something I've ever found especially appealing, so don't feel too cheated. She says she only started doing the winking business to annoy the producer of *Points of View* when she first stood in for Barry Took. She tried it once, and the producer hated it. "He was Sandhurst, ex-army, so of course when he told me not to do it again, it became imperative to do it again and to keep doing it." Would she describe herself as difficult? "I just don't like sloppy standards."

She is certainly a tough negotiator. When *Watchdog* went bi-weekly, she insisted on double the money and got it. When her current husband, the journalist John Penrose, fell out with Robert Maxwell and resigned from *The Mirror* while Anne was still their star columnist, she went to Maxwell's office and demanded a rise to compensate for loss of household earnings. She is popular on the after-dinner speech circuit even though "I won't go out the door for less than £10,000". However, she'll appear in *HELLO!* not only because of the hefty sum but because "it does wonders for my standing in Gloucestershire".

We meet at her Kensington place, which is blissfully World of Interiors and chi chi. Cream carpets, beautiful antique furniture, hi-tech kitchen with gleaming stainless steel things hanging down everywhere, incredibly posh bottles of unguents in the guest loo that read: *Bain de la champagne*,



Will Webster

1994, and are possibly not widely available at Superdrug. It's her husband John who lets me in. John is now Anne's agent. I ask him how this works. I mean, if he gets, say, 10 per cent - £10 for her every £100 - does it end with her saying: "Right, I'm off to Chez Nico. There's a pork pie in the fridge for you." It does not, he insists. "Write down that I get 85 per cent!" he cries. He's not going to Switzerland with Anne. Their country place is being done up yet again, and it's got to the point where, he says, "the builders want to know at what height we want the light-switches, and Anne can't be bothered with any of that, so I have to stay to oversee it."

I don't actually feel as envious of Anne as I might because, it seems to me, that when you are as wholly ambitious as she is, whatever you have will never be enough. You are always going to want more. No matter how magnificent your house is, you'll always want it to be more magnificent. The Gloucestershire house is being enlarged with, among other things, "a Rosemary Verey designed garden." Two dishwashers will, of course, always be better than one.

When Anne eventually comes down, it's in a new pair of bright pink, suede slip-on shoes. She's just got them from a shop on Sloane Street which she expects me to know and may be called J P Todds. "And I liked them so much, I bought a pair in black as well." The first thing she does is grab me by the waist and wail "you're so little," which obviously upsets her. She is superbly competitive. She hates taking holidays from her columns, she says "unless Prince Philip has agreed to stand in, because I know he won't want my job afterwards".

Anne settles onto one of her big, fat, expensive sofas. John offers a glass of wine, which I accept but Anne, of course, does not. Her first marriage to Charlie Wilson, former editor of *The Times* and *The Independent*, ended messily in divorce and

something of a "drink problem". She hasn't touched alcohol for 20 years now, which is a shame in a way, because it might help to relax and soften her. She is *spectacularly* bossy. She is Fanny Craddock, right down to "Johnny-ing" her own husband in the most imperious way. The phone goes. "Johnny, grab that." *The Times* fax through the proof of her Saturday column. "I'm not happy with what they've done here. Johnny, call them." Johnny, it turns out, is chief stacker and unstacker of the dishwashers. "A dishwasher that you can't fill or empty is vital," says Anne, "because then men think it's mechanical and say, 'leave it to me!'."

Johnny is currently trying to sort out this evening's dinner. "The pizza place is closed for the holiday, darling," he announces, "and I haven't got anything in, so Café Flo?" Johnny later explains: "The G'vnor can't function unless she has everything done for her, and a car outside waiting outside to take her to the hairdressers." I'm not sure

what's in it for Johnny. I hope it's that 85 per cent. Certainly, Anne Robinson is the most magnificent non-Jewish, Jewish princess you are ever likely to meet. Do you ever take a tube or bus, Anne. "No!" She thinks she has a washing machine somewhere, but wouldn't have a clue how to work it. "Johnny sends our laundry out to be done, don't you, Johnny?" Johnny confirms that he does, then adds proudly: "And I still get my mother to iron my shirts!" You would have thought that Anne Robinson was a woman of the people. It's how she was sold as a columnist on, variously, *The Mirror*, *The Express*, *Today* and *The Sun*. It's also how she was sold as presenter of *Points of View*, and is still being sold as presenter of *Watchdog*, where she champions the rights of those who've been sold rubbish package holidays in such an authoritative and convincing way you wouldn't suspect she would rather be dead than go by Air Tours to Tenerife herself.

Continued on page 9

INSIDE

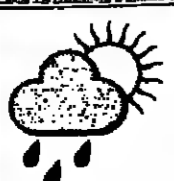
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NETWORK
INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS



A little PIMM'S late morning, becoming widespread by the afternoon.



Sanctions 'murder'

Sir: Patrick Cockburn's recent reports from Iraq highlight the glaring contradiction at the heart of the current UN policy towards Iraq. Saddam Hussein, we are regularly told, is a mass murderer who violates the human rights of his people and has at his disposal weapons of "mass destruction". Yet in order to "weaken" the regime of Saddam, the UN itself has resorted to human rights violations through the use of its weapons of mass destruction: sanctions.

Surely it is not an exaggeration to label the deaths of thousands of Iraqi children, through malnourishment, disease and illness - a direct result of the crippling, unjustified, UN-imposed economic sanctions - as mass murder.

MEHDI HASAN
Harrow, Middlesex

Sir: Patrick Cockburn is wrong to say that Iraq is unique in having its economy destroyed by UN-imposed sanctions ("Sanctions and heat take toll on Iraq", 8 August). As a result of the sanctions imposed by the UN from 1992 to 1996, the economy of the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro was reduced to 25 per cent of its pre-sanction levels and the highest inflation rates ever were recorded, exceeding even the well known cases of inter-war Germany and latter-day South America.

In common with Iraq, the mortality rates of the young and elderly increased massively, particularly amongst the 600,000 refugees from other former Yugoslav republics. In addition to economic sanctions, cultural links were also prohibited.

Levels of malnutrition did not reach the same levels suffered by the Iraqi people but this had more to do with the climate, agricultural practice and a more even-handed government strategy than any concern from the UN or for that matter, Western newspapers.

BRIAN FOCOCC
London W6

Youth detention

Sir: You recently published a moving and compelling article based on a speech by Fran Russell, the assistant director of the Howard League (The Wednesday Review, 22 July). She said that prison is no place for teenage girls.

The essence of her argument was that regimes are about conformity through punishment rather than bringing about good behaviour via development of the young women; that the high levels of bullying, anxiety and emotional disturbance cause women to mutilate themselves on a large scale and frequently attempt suicide; the lack of staff for dealing with volatile adolescents; the absurdity and inappropriateness of the semi-judicial adjudication system that many young people simply don't understand; the frequent locking up of teenagers for long hours with nothing constructive to do, and so on.

Every single argument that she made applies equally to teenage boys in prison. I know because I am a visitor to a prison for young offenders. I rarely leave without literally weeping at the cruel and counterproductive stupidity of it all and the absurd waste of public money.

The special case for girls, according to Fran, is that there are so few of them in prison that the prison service cannot afford to provide them with a suitably tailored regime. Has she seen what is available in boys' prisons? The larger numbers are exploited to achieve economies of scale rather than to develop positive regimes.

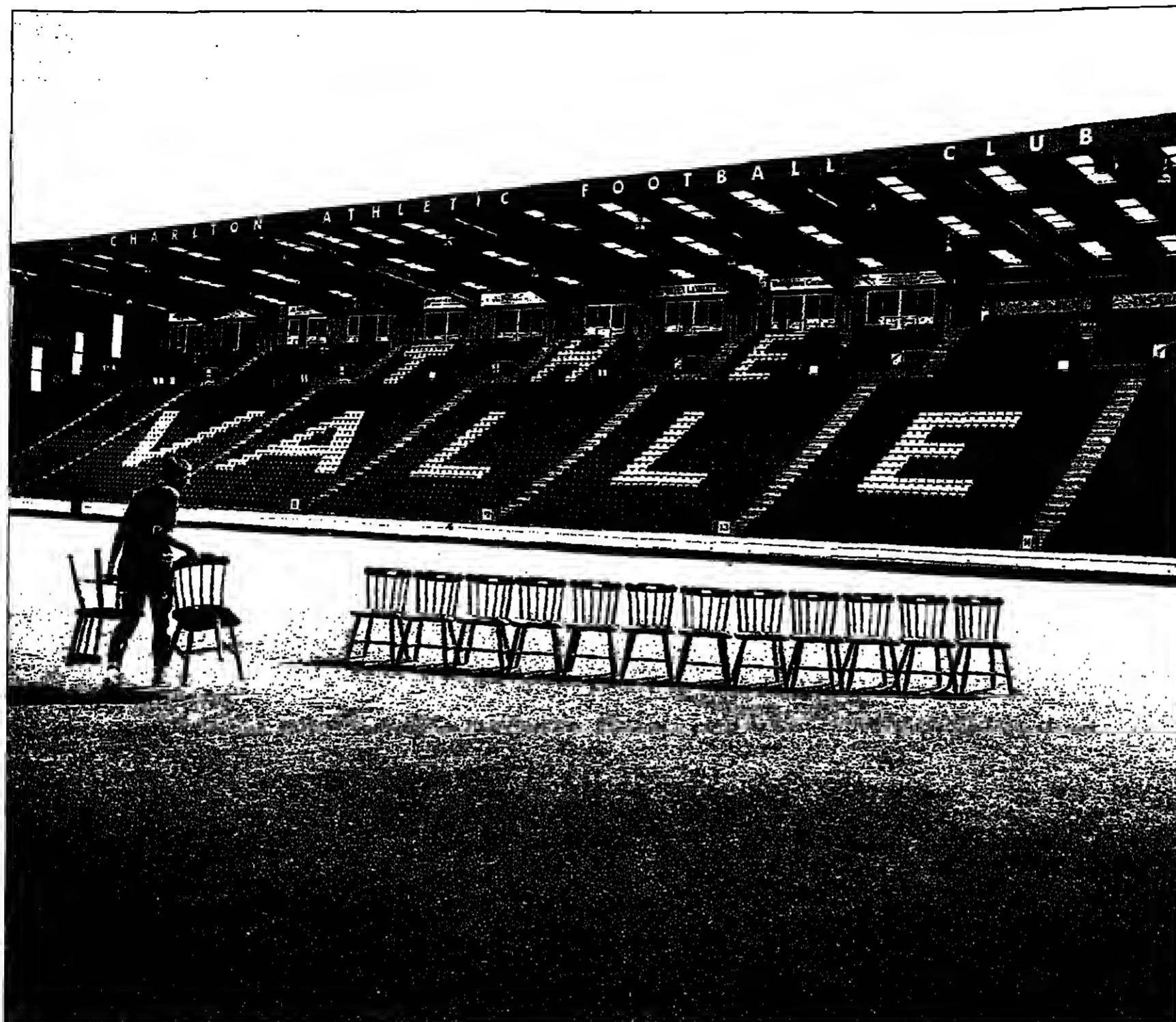
PROF ROBERT PRITCHARD
Leicester

Struggle continues

Sir: Anne Treanman ("The missiles have gone. So why haven't the women of Greenham Common gone with them?", 1 August) gives

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Getting ready for the team group picture at Charlton Athletic FC

Brian Horris

the impression that the Greenham Common peace camp women are alone in their protest. Faslane peace camp, established around 20 years ago adjacent to Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland, is stronger than ever, despite a recent eviction order granted to Argyll and Bute Council, under whose jurisdiction the camp now falls.

The protesters are well organised, and prepared to meet any attempts to evict them with strong, non-violent resistance, including lock-ons, tunnels and tree defences, although a meeting between the council and the camp is being organised in an attempt by the council to reach a compromise.

The assertion by Katrina from Greenham Common that "when people ask why are you still here? I say: Why do we still have nuclear weapons?" is doubly true at Faslane, where Trident missiles are really "in yer face" and radioactive leaks from ageing nuclear submarines are common.

Top secret military convoys carrying nuclear warheads travel regularly up and down the country between Burghfield in Berkshire and Trident nuclear bases in Scotland, usually travelling through Glasgow on the way.

The protesters at Faslane have signed a pledge with other nuclear protesters and environmental and anti-nuclear groups to continue direct action tactics against Trident and Faslane nuclear base until the Ministry of Defence agrees to disarm the nuclear submarines.

Far from being "part of history", Faslane peace camp is in the front line of protest against the nuclear

threat to our environment and our children.
RACHEL HARRY
Glasgow

Czech 'racism'

Sir: To see one's country denounced in the pages of your newspaper as "a harbour of fascism" ("Strangers in their own land", 6 August) is shocking and upsetting. All the more so when it is untrue. The article is unfair and

misrepresentative, and several points are in need of clarification.

Firstly, there have been no more than 10 racially motivated murders in the Czech Republic since 1989 - not about 40 as your correspondent claims. Racist attacks are not "sanctioned by the police". The Czech police, in common with other police forces in central Europe, are underpaid and overworked, but try nonetheless to give these incidents the attention they deserve.

With regard to the terrible

incident when the Romany woman was thrown into the Elbe, the report is particularly biased. Your article makes no mention of the fact that a (white) Czech female journalist risked her life by jumping into the icy waters to try to save the victim. She suffered serious injuries which required long-term hospital treatment.

It is not only the Romany minority who suffer long waiting periods for accommodation. Education is as available to the Romany as it is to

Czechs, but for a variety of complex social reasons, Romany children are often unable to cope with the demands of school. Children who cannot keep up are sent to special schools - NOT "schools for the mentally handicapped".

Racial discrimination and prejudice undoubtedly exist in the Czech Republic and there have been problems with applying the laws in relation to racist attacks. However, it is grossly unfair to brand 45 per cent of its inhabitants as racists. In June's elections, the extremist Republican Party gained less than 4 per cent of the vote and failed to get to parliament. Other European democracies which give much greater support to such parties are not labelled "harbours of fascism".

JOHN MACKINLAY, JANA SOSNOVA
Edinburgh

Montserrat cash

Sir: You report ("Relief to volcano-hit Montserrat showed 'bungling incompetence'", 5 August) that the all-party Commons International Development Committee repeated the Government's claim that it is spending £25,000 per Montserratian.

However, this figure is obtained not by using the pre-volcanic eruption figure of 11,500, but the number currently on the island - 3,000. If those in neighbouring Antigua or the 3,500 currently in the UK are included, the figure is nearer £5,500, or just over £2,000 per person per year.

JEREMY EVANS
Bristol

Dissenting bishops

Sir: In your report on the Lambeth vote on homosexuality ("Hardline bishops ban gay priests", 6 August), you suggest that the Lambeth conference "is seen as a powerful influence of opinion on the Church". I doubt this will influence the belief or practice of those liberal bishops who disagreed with the result of the motion.

Do you think Spong and Holloway will now be constrained to act differently or, if the vote went the other way, that Forward in Faith and the various evangelical traditionalists would alter their position one theological iota?

Cardinal Edward Cassidy's plea for a more centralised Anglican authority is unlikely to happen, not least since Dr Carey has praised "dispersed rather than centralised authority".

Each Anglican province is jealous of its autonomy and makes decisions regardless of the "common mind" of any Lambeth conference.

The Eames report of a decade previous, allowing the integrity of those who cannot accept the ordination of women to the priesthood, is largely ignored.

It is time for the Lambeth conference to end and for each province to meet to debate common themes prepared by the Anglican Consultative Council, and after diocesan and provincial synods have debated the issues, for the Anglican Primates with elected lay officials to meet and see whether there can be any consensus.

This would be less expensive than the Lambeth conference and equally effective or ineffective. I hope that audited accounts of the present Lambeth conference will be sent to every diocese in the Anglican Federation - it can hardly be called a Communion.

THE REV ERIC LINDSAY
Kilmacolm, Scotland

Sir: As the Lambeth conference ends, there is clear moral consensus emerging among Anglican bishops worldwide on the issue of international debt.

The Lambeth conference heard bishops who spoke for communities deprived of health care and education. Yet, however hard they try, and they will try, churches in countries such as Mozambique or Tanzania cannot adequately protect the poor amid shattered infrastructures and crumbling welfare networks.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, providing effective debt relief to the 20 worst-affected countries would cost between \$5.5bn and \$7.7bn, less than the price of one Stealth bomber and roughly equivalent to the cost of building the Euro-Disney theme park in France.

The cost of not doing this, the UNDP estimates, from 1997 to 2000 will be the lives of 21 million children in Africa alone by the new millennium.

We hope that the bishops will respond to the call by the Archbishop of Cape Town for the third millennium to signify a new beginning for the Third World. We hope the world's main industrialised countries, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will also heed the call.

ROGER WILLIAMSON
Director of Policy and Campaigns,
Christian Aid
London

Sir: How ironic that an African bishop (Right of Reply, 5 August) should come out as so anti-gay and anti-grey (grey areas, that is). For many years the Reformed Church in South Africa was convinced, on theological grounds, that apartheid was prescribed by God.

They too had their favourite Genesis texts, a biblical view of the world, and contempt for critics.

Eventually, that church repented and rewrote its theology. I pray for Bishop Mutebi's eyes to be opened. Maybe he should take a trip to Damascus?

PETER HEAD
London W7

IN BRIEF

told. I don't see how the words in I Corinthians 6:9 malakoi and arsenokoitai can, respectively, be translated other than as "effeminate/catamites" and "sodomites". If anything, this strengthens Mr Hall's plea for a "measured carelessness in the use of Scripture".
DAVID FOCOCC
Leaves, East Sussex

Sir: I thought our loyal football fans already had an alternative national anthem, substituting "Team" for "Queen".
It's simple: they know the words, they know the tune. They can sing it lustily. Drunk or sober.
R.J.P. WILBY
King's Lynn, Norfolk

Sir: I would like to make it absolutely clear that we have not removed the northern

accent from our English Language Teaching version of the Wallace and Gromit film. The Wrong Trousers. Peter Sallis, who is the voice of Wallace in the original film, remains the voice of Wallace - without any toning down of his accent whatsoever. This is a simple statement of fact as anybody who takes the trouble to watch the video would find out themselves.

The only adjustments made were an additional language element in the form of a narrative voice (Stephen Tompkinson) and the simplification of some of the denser "Wallace-isms" which would have been unintelligible and pedagogically inappropriate for the video's intended audience: learners of English as a foreign language in their first or second year of study.
NEIL BUTTERFIELD
English Language Teaching
Oxford University Press

It is only when everyone leaves that London comes alive

DEAR ALL
I know, I know - it's a bit unusual to be sending out "Wish you were here" notes when I'm the one stuck at home, but I simply couldn't resist! I thought of you all on your holiday, sitting in the shade, sipping something exotic, your family and friends playing attractively nearby, congratulating yourselves on having "got away from it all".

It occurred to me that, although you're not impenetrable people, you might be feeling slightly smug. Every evening as the agreeable local wine flows at that remarkably unspoilt little hostelry you've discovered, you'll be speculating about what those of us left behind are doing. You'll make jokes about the weather, the repeats on TV, the foreign tourists seething like soldier

ants through the underground. Soon you'll send us a postcard, smeared with sun-tan lotion in which you will attempt to conjure up the divine weather, the startlingly blue sea and something rather hilarious that happened at a mock bullfight down in the village.

Don't bother. The fact is that, ever since you left, London has been the most fantastic place on earth. Within seconds of the dreary holiday-addicts clambering on to their plane or pulling out of the crescent in their laden hatchback, the place comes alive. Here are just a few of the things that have been happening in this gorgeous capital during the happiest, zaniest month of the year.

Poets have been taking their clothes off. Don't laugh, it's true and it's very beautiful. At the ICA's

First International Festival of Naked Poetry, the latest literary fashion to hit Europe has been playing to packed, strangely silent and absorbed audiences. Poetry declaimed in the buff, the ICA's curator has revealed, "creates a greater spiritual connection with audiences".

Yeah right, you'll say, remembering pictures of Allen Ginsberg, squatting plump and naked on the stage at the Albert Hall, reading Blake and discussing masturbation. But no, this is the lovely French writer Emmanuelle Waackerie (even her name's a poem), the hunky St Petersburg couplet Tim Gadashi and Vladimir Yaremko. The word in the Poetry Society is that these are the most physically perfect versifiers since Ted Hughes first arrived in London, emanating such a powerful sexual aura that women were physically sick at the sight of him.

As you sit, palely leering at naked foreigners on the nudist beach and then guiltily visit a local church to top up your cultural intake, those of us at home are getting naked foreigners and culture in one erotic yet intellectually stimulating hit.

There have been Viagra raids in Soho. But they were too late! It's in the national bloodstream. Priapus reigns. Strangers make love in the fountain in Trafalgar Square, sometimes for days on end. Naked European performance poets have caused sex riots in the Mall. At the Lambeth Conference, bishops are unable to discuss anything but varying aspects of contemporary physical relations.

Frank Field has been unmasked. D'you remember, when the Government's first cabinet was

announced how the most intelligent, creative, morally unswerving minister was Frank Field - bow he showed that New Labour was more than just image, spin and cynicism. Apparently that was all a fantastically sophisticated joke. We now discover that he was grindingly ambitious and, far from thinking the unthinkable, he wasn't much good at thinking at all. Who said that the Government had no sense of irony?

Everyone's bumping up, according to Jay McInerney. In town to promote his new novel, America's hippest fictioneer revealed that, while his fellow countrymen have become thin-tipped and puritanical on the subject of drugs, something called "a cocaine culture" has London in its grip. "I can't even get in the bathroom in Soho because everyone's bumping up,"

he complained to one interviewer. See what I mean? London's too hot even for Jay McInerney - that's how groovy it is.

Ann Widdecombe has become an icon. When you left, she was a slightly sinister, morally superior woman from a discredited former government. Now she's the most adored, cuddliest woman in Britain, a heroine of chatshows and celebrity quizzes and the wacky co-host of The Big Breakfast with Johnny Vaughan. And guess what - the single she released with the chanteuse Louise Something of the Night has already gone platinum!

Still, you probably think you're having a better time, sitting out there, as tanned and wrinkled as an old avocado, gloomily reassessing your life as your holiday grinds on. Back here, we don't envy you one bit.



TERENCE BLACKER

The Viagra raids in Soho were too late. It's in the national bloodstream. Priapus reigns

JP 11:50

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The Lords must put their house in order over accountability

PERHAPS THE classless society is not yet with us. We all expect MPs in the House of Commons to live by a clear set of rules, but for Peers of the Realm a gentleman's agreement is still deemed sufficient. Last year, a Labour MP Robert Wareing, was suspended for failing to register an interest in a small business. In the House of Lords, dozens of active politicians keep their financial affairs out of the public gaze without ever breaking the rules.

Today's news that the voluntary system for the registering of peers' interests is to be reviewed could not come at a better time. Planned reforms of the Lords, which will remove the voting rights of hereditary peers who often have little to do with politics, could provide an appropriate opportunity to look again at this issue.

The subject was last discussed three years ago when the Committee on Standards in Public Life, then chaired by Lord Nolan, declared an intention to look into it. A member of the Lords himself, Nolan accepted that the Upper House should be given a chance to put its own house in order. And so a deal was put together under which Lord Griffiths, a former senior judge, headed an internal committee on the subject. The resulting guidelines made it compulsory for peers to list paid parliamentary consultancies and links with lobbying companies. Beyond that, though, the system is entirely voluntary. It is suggested that peers should register interests that might affect what they say in Parliament, and that they should mention them when they speak on related areas.

Despite these strictures, several front bench peers continue to speak on subjects in which they have financial interests without fully declaring themselves. Not surprisingly, given the skeletal nature of the rules, the Privileges Committee reported last December that it had not investigated a single alleged failure to register, nor a failure to mention a consultancy or link with lobbying when speaking.

Some members of the Griffiths committee, notably the Liberal Democrat Lord Rodgers, argued that the rules for politicians in the House of Lords should be exactly the same as for those in the House of Commons. The time has come for this proposal to be renewed. Those who oppose the idea argue that there are fundamental differences between the two houses that would make compulsory registration for peers unfair. Peers, unlike MPs, are not paid salaries for their political work, they say. And shedding a spotlight on their outside interests



might drive out the academics and former captains of industry, leaving behind a handful of toffs who would treat the place as a sort of extended Pall Mall club.

These arguments are specious. No one is saying that peers should not earn money outside of politics, nor do the House of Commons rules prevent MPs from doing so. What is important is that the public should have the right to know that politicians' words come from their hearts and not from their wallets.

Nor does the House of Lords' relative lack of power enhance the case for laxity. Local councillors, unlike MPs, are barred from even speaking on subjects in which they hold financial interests. In fact there is one argu-

ment for making the rules in the Lords even stricter than those in the Commons: being unelected, peers cannot be removed by voters suspicious of their motives.

This autumn, Lord Nolan's successor, Lord Neill, will face a situation similar to the one that arose three years ago. This time there should be no fudge. Peers should not be allowed to decide whether their own rules are working. Lord Neill should review them, and any peer who is politically active should be forced to make a full declaration of interests.

If the Lords' committee extends a gentlemanly hand to Lord Neill in an attempt to divert him, he should remove his kid gloves before taking it.

Listening for victims through the vitriol

THREE DAYS after the horrendous bombings of the US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the most important sound is the softest: the hope against hope that more survivors may yet be found in the rubble. The loudest sound inevitably is the demand of "Whodunnit?" and "How can they be punished?" - the game of spot the terrorist and name the organisation, and even the state, behind him. But it is the small voice that should be heard - the cry of the survivor and the still voice of the victim. These outrages are outrages precisely because of what they do to the innocent: the passer-by, the typist working in the Embassy, the cleaner in the building next door.

Not that the politics aren't important. The finger of suspicion hovers over the Sudanese, the Saudi fundamentalist Osama Bin Laden and the Jihad group in Egypt. They all have the motives and means to take revenge or vent their anger against the US and its symbols.

Before anyone jumps the gun, however, it is as well to remember that we still don't know who was responsible for Lockerbie. The West has conveniently forgotten that President Reagan, with Margaret Thatcher's help, launched a bombing raid on Libya that killed Colonel Gaddafi's daughter, in retaliation for a night club bombing in Rome that proved to have had nothing to do with him. Now we have allegations that the British Secret Service tried to kill the Colonel and blew up a car-load of the wrong people instead.

Revenge is a dish that shouldn't be eaten at all, certainly not by a state. The Israelis have always pursued it as a policy of deterrence as well as populist satisfaction. But can anyone really say Arab terrorism has decreased as a result? The opposite is probably true. For the moment, the world and the West has to accept that terrorism is part of political life and global communication has spread it worldwide. Faced by the military superiority of a superpower or a police state, groups will see attacks on civilians as a means of demonstrating an ability to fight back and bringing their cause to the attention of the world.

As the British know better than most, the only method of defence is a combination of intelligence and protection. If these outrages were committed by the unknown groups now claiming responsibility, Washington has to ask itself why it didn't know more about them - and ask its allies. These may be crimes committed against one country, but they are also crimes committed against the international community and need to be pursued and brought to justice as such.

Unemployment could again be the measure of political failure

THE MOST significant change in politics since the election has been hardly noticed: unemployment has become a politically important issue again. After 1979, the jobless level ceased to have political consequences. Elections could still be won by governing parties presiding over high unemployment. But greatly to its credit, and possibly to its cost, New Labour has changed all that. This government cannot win again, surely, unless unemployment is lower at the next election than it was at the last.

For an explanation of New Labour's distinctive appeal can be summed up in one word: "Work". Gordon Brown, a man with a huge appetite for work himself (as you are reading this he will be devouring books by obscure American economists on his "holiday" in Cape Cod), sees it as the key to economic and social progress. The word "work" re-appeared more than 20 times in his spring budget. The welfare to work programme, paid for by the windfall tax, announced in his first budget in July last year, was New Labour's "big idea". Childcare schemes have been expanded so that more single parents are able to work. The Government's main pre-election pledge was to cut the unemployment bill, the money spent on "economic failure", and transfer it to "productive spending" on education and health. Brown's view of the entire welfare reform package is predicated on the assumption that work will create opportunities and erode the culture of dependency. The mantra of New Labour is work, work, work.

So what happens to the

Government if unemployment starts to rise fast, as several economists have gloomily predicted in recent days? There is a real danger that New Labour's most distinctive and positive theme would start to become its greatest liability. Exhortations about the value of work would incite only anger and contempt.

Senior aides of Gordon Brown are fully aware of the political repercussions. If the economy suffers a hard landing, they have a response prepared: the jobs situation would have been much worse, they will say, if we had not introduced schemes such as welfare to work. This would no doubt be the case. Even so, "It Could Have Been Worse" is hardly a great clarion call as the Government enters the awkward mid-term phase. The Government will suffer, possibly fatally, if a recession blows apart its programme for jobs.

It does not deserve such a fate for returning to the more civilised pre-Thatcher era, when politicians trembled at the publication of the monthly unemployment figures. One of Margaret Thatcher's more depressing contributions to politics was her triumphant defiance of what had been regarded as a post-war electoral law: a government could not be re-elected if unemployment was high.

In 1983, with unemployment close to a post-war record she won a landslide. Nine years later, in the middle of a job-killing recession, John Major was also returned to power. Such had been the change of political climate that a chancellor, admittedly one who was a political inept, could declare publicly that "unemployment was a



STEVE RICHARDS

If unemployment rises, New Labour's most distinctive theme would start to become its greatest liability

price worth paying". For ministers in the Eighties and early Nineties, there seemed to be no long-term political pain.

During this period, earnest experts appearing on late night by-election programmes rapidly devised a new theory about elections: a party could be returned to power if those in work were enjoying rising standards of living, even if unemployment was high. This was a revolutionary shift in our political climate, as any leader who struggled through the Sixties and Seventies would testify.

When unemployment hit one million in early 1972, the Heath government regarded it as a political catastrophe, prompting his famous U-turn from embryonic Thatcherite to a high-spending interventionist. In spite of the inflationary madness that overwhelmed the Labour government

of Wilson and Callaghan, both ensured that unemployment remained relatively low compared with other European countries for the rest of the Seventies. For them, without hesitation, unemployment was the number one enemy.

Now we are in new political territory. For the New Labour Government has returned us to the pre-Thatcher era in one sense. It recognises the importance of work, and the Government's role in creating the opportunities for people to work. Only it rejects emphatically the policies adopted by the governments of the Sixties and Seventies. It would no more rescue a "lame duck" in industry than the Thatcher government would have done. Nor would it relax its onslaught on inflation in order to ease the pressure on employment, which is what the Heath and Wilson/Callaghan governments both did.

It has become almost a cliché to declare that Brown is the most powerful chancellor since the war, so much so that even Blair himself a dominant Prime Minister, is getting itchy. And yet, Brown has given more power away than any chancellor since the war. Unlike his predecessors, who shared his assumptions about the importance of work, Brown has no control over interest rates and the level of income tax.

The decision to hand over control of interest rates to the Bank of England was the right one, establishing a degree of early stability that previous Labour governments have lacked. In the context of the current fears about jobs, it is also a red herring. The rate would not be lower if Brown was taking the

decision each month himself. Indeed, a few months ago it was Brown's (and Blair's) personal view that the rate should have been higher.

But the pre-election decision not to raise the rate of income tax was purely political and almost certainly unnecessary. Labour would have won the last election without such a firm commitment. Amidst the economic uncertainties, there is one safe assumption: Labour will not break this pledge.

Yet if Brown had raised income tax in July 1997, interest rates might well have been lower now. Perhaps at the time of the next budget an income tax rise would be the fairest way of raising money - if the unemployment bills start to rise and the previously buoyant tax revenues start to decline. Even the Tories raised income tax when faced with recession.

Unless politicians - and it will only be Labour and Liberal Democrat ones - start to talk more realistically about the need, sometimes, to put up income tax, Labour chancellors will be permanently stuck with rates decided by the last Conservative government. And yet such rigidity may prove incompatible with sustained levels of high employment.

Fingers crossed, then, for a soft landing, so the Government's admirable objective of encouraging people into worthwhile jobs can be achieved.

The only problem is that Brown can do little more than keep his fingers crossed as well. He will certainly be doing so, for he has created a climate once more where governments may pay a price for unemployment.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Even if they wanted the US embassy, they should not have targeted Kenya. Kenyans are peaceful people."
Daniel Arap Moi,
President of Kenya

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Character is fate."
Heracitus,
Ancient Greek philosopher

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HAVE OFFICERS become entangled in plots to kill foreign leaders which have no official sanction? Few would lose too much sleep if Gaddafi, who supported the Lockerbie bombing, was blown up. It is important, however, to know if it was taxpayers' money that would have bankrolled it. A similar gag applies to Mr Shayler's charge of inefficiency in MI5's monitoring of the terrorist threat to Britain before the IRA ceasefire. It begs the question: are MI5 and MI6 under proper control, as ministers say? Or are there still rogue elephants

roaming around, willing to cut corners and ignore the law, as they did when Harold Wilson suspected the worst in the Sixties?
The Sunday Times

MR SHAYLER does not appear to grasp the seriousness of what he is doing. The secret services are secret for good reasons. They depend upon a culture of complete trust, with no room for egotism or litigiousness - a culture which Mr Shayler evidently found unbearable. During the Cold War, British operatives could be put

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
What the Sunday newspapers said about David Shayler

in danger by double agents who believed in a Communist future. Today, the threat comes from the testimonies of an unsuccessful former employee. For Mr Shayler appears to have no ambitions beyond vindictiveness, no motivation

except solipsism, no cause higher than self-publicity. His criticisms of MI5 are trivial and often contradictory, and his claim somehow to be acting in the national interest is disgusting.
The Sunday Telegraph

NO ONE quarrels with the importance and necessity of the security services in protecting this country from terrorist attacks - a danger graphically highlighted by the horrendous explosions in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. No one doubts the bravery of its operatives or the need for secrecy to protect their lives and methods. But as we know to our cost, their leaders and managers have often invoked the concept of national interest as a cynical device to escape embarrassment or avoid accountability. The Government's shoddy retreat on a

Freedom of Information Bill underlines the point.
The Mail on Sunday

JUST IMAGINE how shocked we would be if MI5 did NOT have a plan to kill off Gaddafi, or Saddam Hussein - or bad not had one for Hitler, for that matter. That's what MI5 is supposed to do. We expect its agents to get up to all kinds of skulduggery behind our backs, including bugging the Confessional or tapping our telephone lines.
*Amanda Platell
The Express on Sunday*

PANDORA

IT'S WORSE, far worse, than we ever imagined. Not content with bashing their way through London's crowded public spaces, hordes of rucksack louts have now descended on a tranquil village in Scotland's western isles. According to a news story in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph*, the tiny fishing port of Kyleakin (pop. 350) on Skye "is reeling under the impact of up to 1,000 raucous backpackers who are turning the place into a cosmopolitan party".

The Anti-Rucksacks On The Tube Campaign was launched with the specific goal of protecting Londoners from discourteous travellers. However, it now seems the Campaign has merely scratched the surface of the frightening Rucksack Culture. According to one woman resident of Kyleakin, the "disgusting" backpackers "go around here making all this noise and they don't care about people who have got to get up for their work". Poor little Kyleakin, it now bears the stigma of being known as the "Torremolinos of the Highlands". When will the Government take this social pestilence as seriously as it takes, say, football booting? At the very least, this should merit yet another Taskforce.

ONE OF the stars of asteroid-flick *Armageddon*, Ben Affleck, is about to have his debut as a film director. His first directorial effort is an engagingly entitled *I Killed My Lesbian Wife, Hung Her On A Meat Hook, And Now I Have A Three-Picture Deal At Disney*. The short film will be shown to executives at Sony later this week, according to *Daily Variety*. The last time Pandora glimpsed Affleck, he was romantically entwined with lovely Gwyneth Paltrow in the VIP room at the K Bar on Wandour Street. One wonders if Ms Paltrow, the very picture of innocence, is aware of her boyfriend's new film? More to the point, how does her agent feel about the possible impact of its title on Gwyneth's Disney prospects?

PANDORA HAS been contacted by an Islington resident struck by a bout of "yellow line fever". The lady in question was stung by a zealous traffic warden who gave her car a parking ticket while she went to lock her garage door. Pandora called Islington Council whose PR department offered this handy solution: "To colate all the information required, it generally takes three minutes from when the attendant arrives at the vehicle to printing out the ticket. This should provide ample time to secure a garage and return to the vehicle at the roadside". On your mark, get set, go.

WHILE SHOOTING *The Avengers*, actress Uma

Thurman had to watch a naked Ralph Fiennes in the steam room of a London gentleman's club. "I was terrified to open my mouth and sound like an idiot," she tells *America's TV Guide*. However, she "reassured Mr Fiennes that I was near-sighted and couldn't see any details". As that doesn't sound like the adventurous Emma Peel character first created by Diana Rigg, it hardly bodes well for the soon-to-be released film.

DAVID DAVIS, Conservative Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, is not taking it easy for his holiday this year. While other politicians opt for more relaxing holidays, Davis is about to embark on a 300-mile walk. "When Parliament is sitting, you do very little in the way of exercise and, no matter whether you are in the chamber or not, you are always surrounded by people," Davis said. The walk will take Davis through the Yorkshire town of Richmond, in William Hague's constituency. Would he pop in to see his leader? "I doubt it. I won't be walking that slowly. I'll be doing 20 miles a day." But perhaps Mr Hague could join Davis for part of the walk? It would be an ideal opportunity to wear his baseball cap.

OUTSPOKEN PLAYWRIGHT Steven Berkoff (pictured) has written to correct the drama critic of the *Jewish Daily Chronicle*. A review of Berkoff's play, *Shakespeare's Villains*, insinuated that the author's antipathy towards some of his critics was "ungrateful" in view of all the awards he'd received over the years. "But the truth is that, in my 30 years of work," Berkoff writes, "I have received just one award - the Evening Standard Comedy of the Year Award." Lest we think the author of the play *Kvetch* is indulging in a little kvetching himself, Berkoff continues, "I have no grievance about this, I'm not a great lover of awards." How very fortunate.



A divisive debut by Africa's bishops



TREVOR PHILLIPS

Panic inspires fear and bigotry, and there's plenty of that in the bishops' campaign

UNTIL LAST week there were only two African bishops that anyone had ever heard of: the anti-apartheid campaigner Trevor Huddleston (who is really English, anyway) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Both of them offered impeccably liberal leaderships and represented the oppressed with a kind of epic dignity that defied criticism.

But this week, the massed ranks of Africa's clerics dropped a bombshell into the Lambeth Conference with their passionate denunciation of homosexuality. It was a smashing coming-out party for the church's chiefs in the continent, complete with an attempted exorcism of a gay campaigner on network television. You could hardly ask for more: except that you would have expected a posse of bishops to tell the real reasons for this campaign.

It was a curious outcome. The Africans had started the Conference complaining that the western bishops were too obsessed with homosexuality and paid too little attention to big questions such as debt relief and third world poverty. Yet at the first sight of publicity, they themselves were prepared to go into all

sorts of contortions to make the debate over gay priests the abiding memory of the Conference. The insinuating references to witchcraft in Africa by one American bishop should not prevent us from a proper examination of the claims of the African bishops to being the authentic voice of the continent. My own view is that they are not. Anglicans in Africa are in a minority. People in the continent take their religion seriously, which makes the restrained pews of the Church of England a rather unsuitable bome for their spiritual aspirations. Anglicanism was brought to the continent as part of the so-called civilising mission of the colonialists. The missionaries carried their bibles ahead of soldiers who carried their guns.

The Church of England (and the Church of Scotland in Malawi and some other parts of Southern Africa) was at the heart of the colonial adventure. Its adherents were among the apologists for the District Commissioners, and many of its communicants saw becoming part of the church as a vital part of climbing the ladder of the colonial administration.

This tradition of sucking up to the masters has transferred, without a breath of embarrassment, to the new elite in Africa. The bishops offer their flock red-hot rhetoric about the need to attack poverty and disease, and to demand more from the international community. Yet they still occupy their large residences with squads of servants, cooks and cars. And we hear little from them

about two of the scourges of post-colonial Africa: corruption and Aids.

The African bishops' campaign is not motivated purely by the desire to correct the straying of their weak-willed western counterparts. It is also driven by fear. Recent decades have seen a resurgence in traditional beliefs such as animism. Even in the most industrially advanced nation - South Africa - the practitioners of the old arts are doing a roaring trade. The Anglican clerics have tried their best to incorporate some of the elements of the old into their practice. But the pallid imitation can never hope to compete with the real thing. And to add to the bishops' discomfort, there are new competitors.

One of them is Islam. Today, the most visible sign of the growing struggle between this ancient religion and the imported Christian faith is the grinding, nasty war in Sudan. It may be that the bombs in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam this week are signs that this conflict is spreading out of the Sudan to other parts of Africa - there is certainly ample funding for pro-Islamic movements in sub-Saharan Africa.

The other new threat is the global reach of American Christian fundamentalism. Both by satellite and by missionary penetration, the televangelism that has spread across the US is now taking its message to other parts of the world, notably Eastern Europe and Africa. They have plenty of resources with which to do it, and they will use their financial clout to persuade people looking for faith that the Almighty is on their side.

To combat fundamentalist creeds, the bishops are reinventing Anglicanism to be elemental, simplistic and populist. The face they now present to the world is attractive to those who think the way to hold back the tide of religious fervour now sweeping the world is to go back to some fire-and-brimstone version of Anglicanism.

In fact, what we are hearing from the African bishops is the last gasp of men who can see that the colonial and neocolonial establishment of which they are a part has been crumbling.

Panic inspires fear and bigotry, and there's plenty of that in the bishops' campaign.

When it rains it floods - but it's not the weather's fault



TERESA POOLE

No one blames China for this summer's early rains, but nor can Mother Nature be accused

REMEMBER THE Chinese floods of 1996, when around 3,000 people died and the economic cost was officially put at nearly £17bn? Or perhaps you recall 1995, when the toll was nearer 4,000, and one-sixth of China's farmland was inundated? Or 1994, with 4,300 casualties? Or 1991, the worst floods this decade - until the water levels set new records this year?

The world can be forgiven for falling prey to flood fatigue when it comes to China. Long before the television pictures, there is a terrible inevitability about the flood season. By early June, Peking has usually warned of impending disaster and ordered the provinces to safeguard the country's 245,000km of dykes. Within weeks, water levels somewhere have reached "historic levels", millions of homes have been washed away, even more millions of peasants are camped out in makeshift tents on the top of the dykes, and medical teams are warning of the onset of disease.

And so it is this year. Only worse, at least in the scale of the flooding. The official death toll is above 2,000, with another month of the flood season still to go. Almost 14 million people have been relocated, and 5.6 million homes destroyed. All of which begs the question, why does flooding on this scale happen, year after year?

The government last week blamed "abnormal weather" - early rains, historically intense downpours, heavy snow in Tibet, and that hardy scapegoat, El Niño. The propaganda was all about the Communist Party's anti-flood efforts and the heroic deeds of the People's Liberation Army. Zhou Wenzhi, Vice-minister for Water Resources, said: "It proves once again the Chinese people's ability to overcome, under the leadership of the Communist party and governments at all levels,

not only the difficulties brought about by the financial crisis in South-east Asia, but also serious natural disasters".

No one blames China for this summer's early rains, but nor can Mother Nature be accused for the underlying reasons for China's water mismanagement. It is not just flooding. Every year, China also sees severe drought, 300 cities suffer from water shortages, and in more than half of them, the water is too polluted to drink.

Take the perennial Yangtze flooding, particularly bad this year. Since the Communist victory in 1949, massive deforestation above the upper reaches of the Yangtze has led to extreme soil erosion. Increased water run-offs then wash silt into the river and tributaries. Year by year, this sedimentation clogs the upstream storage reservoirs and gradually raises the level of the river bed along its course. The government's belated tree-planting programme will take decades to repair the damage.

In the middle of the reaches, pressure of a fast-increasing population, plus Mao's edicts to the peasants to plant rice, have destroyed the natural flood-retaining features of the geography. Look at a map of central Hubei province, for instance, and the Yangtze flows through a low-lying basin of interconnected rivers and lakes. Left to its own devices, Yangtze floodwaters and local rainfall would engorge the lakes and flood nearby land, thus reducing the flow in the main river-stream. Much of this flood-prone land should simply not be lived on.

But over the last 30 years, millions of Chinese peasants have been encouraged to drain Hubei's natural marshes and lakes to create new fields. Subsidiary dykes have been built to stop tributary rivers and lakes overflowing onto this new farmland. During the flood season, this means that more flood and rainwater is channelled straight into the Yangtze.

New local industrial development has been taking place without regard to flood issues. Yang Qian, at the Ministry of Water Resources, has said: "Some [towns] even built factories in low-lying regions without any flood-control facilities. Even river courses are cut as sites for building residences or industrial projects".



Desperate defences prove temporary against the Yangtze

In 1995 alone, China drafted 19 laws and administrative regulations including an anti-flood law, and 18 policy papers on water resources. Yet the floods go on, and usually it is the farmers who pay the price.

It is the subsidiary dykes behind the Yangtze's main dykes which have started collapsing over the past two weeks, inundating villages and farmland. In other areas, local officials, as in Jiangxi yesterday, are destroying these dykes, as part of government policy to relieve the pressure on the main river in order to safeguard cities such as Wuhan, the industrial capital of Hubei.

This year, the devastation has already been enormous. In some areas, farmers privately blame local government officials for leaving flood precautions too late. There are also allegations that money for anti-flood preparations has sometimes been diverted. Construction of the Three Gorges Dam, under way in the west of Hubei, may also have lulled flood-control officials into a false sense of security, and wrongly dissuaded them from spending tight budgets on renovating the dykes.

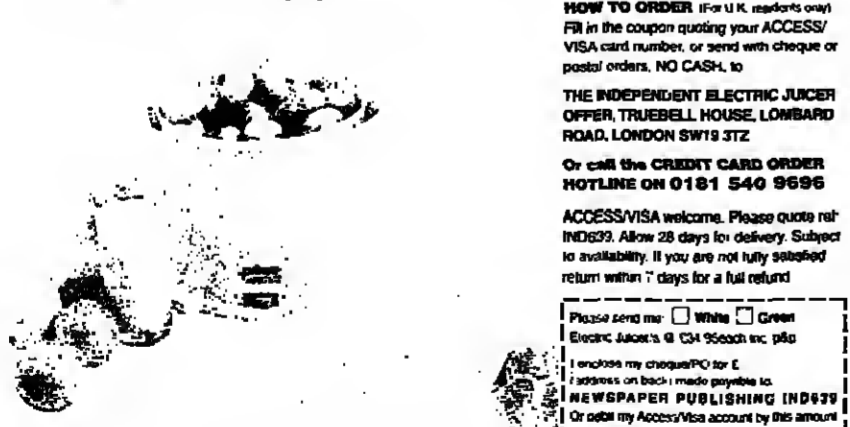
The Peking government maintains that the Three Gorges Dam will solve the Yangtze's flood problems. Zhao Chunming, at the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, said last week: "If we had the Three Gorges Dam, the levels in the lower reaches would not be so high, and the situation would not be so urgent. So it is absolutely necessary to have this project". Those who argue otherwise say that the dam reservoir will not be big enough, given a two-month flood season, and that the whole project is flawed.

None of this is debated in China's official media, where the Three Gorges Dam and flood-control policy in general is not to be questioned. Nor does the local media do more than selective reporting on the floods. Foreign journalists are generally refused permission to travel to flooded areas, and a TV crew that did hit its tapes confiscated.

With water levels still rising towards the 1954 record, one just has to take the word of Fan Baogun, Vice-Civil Affairs Minister, that "the public is quiet and society is stable".

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Means-testing will not benefit society

THIS FIRST lecture since resigning from the Government gives me the opportunity to reflect on what I see as the great divide in the debate - and in action, too - on the reform of the British Welfare State.

The great driving force in practically all of us is self-interest. Self-interest has remained the golden thread linking together most of all human advance since time began. Self-interest should never be exclusively viewed in terms of making money - although most of us in employment should gratefully doff our hats to this simple fact. No, self-interest is apparent in our human relationships, in how we help maintain society and how we contribute generally to our well-being and that of others.

The role of politicians is not to deny self-interest. To do so is too dangerous for words. It is, rather, to capitalise on this great driving force in each of us, to appreciate that it has, and always will be the greatest (but not the only) engine force for social advance, and that the primary responsibility of the politician is to lay options before the electorate so that self-

interest can run its natural course in a manner which also advances the common good.

Holding such views about human nature and the mechanics of human advance begins to close down options for welfare strategies. If welfare impacts on behaviour as I believe it does and if our human frame is feeble and open to corruption (which I believe it is) then it is only safe to consider those welfare strategies which take into account these most fundamental of premises and, in doing so, operate in a manner which helps direct self-interest to promote society's more general well-being.

Here is the big divide. For all its attractions, welfare selectivity on the basis of income and capital spells trouble - big trouble. While it is true that no welfare system can do without some forms of means-testing, too heavy a reliance on means-testing courts disaster.

The reason for this are obvious. Means tests ensure that benefit is lost as income rises. It acts thereby as a great disincentive to work. Similarly it penalises savings. Means-tested benefits are lost if savings are above a minimum level.



PODIUM

FRANK FIELD
From a speech given to
the Social Market
Foundation by the
former minister for
welfare reform

And honesty about it and how long you work, and about the existence of savings, reduces your income. Hence the penalty which is put on honesty which is likely to weaken any urge to tell the truth. Yet work, savings and honesty are the cornerstones around which a thriving, prosperous and decent society are built.

Politicians are rarely offered an empty canvass on which to make their marks. No

politician is offered that in today's welfare review roadshow. Trade-offs have to be made. But the working family tax credit will amount to a major extension in means-testing to the working poor. It entails huge dangers.

It offers huge bonuses for dishonesty. It strengthens the employers' hold over work people - "these are the conditions, cheat, and both of us will be better off."

It thereby pulls employees into a spider's web of dishonesty and corruption.

It rewards employers paying low wages.

It takes pressure off improving productivity and thereby the scope for increasing real wages.

The other immediate issue is the growing reliance on means-tested supplements for the elderly. The campaign to persuade the million pensioners to claim income support to which they are entitled is admirable. There is no other practical way of ensuring an immediate and often substantial increase for the poorest pensioner. Likewise, the recent announcements of a pension guarantee - an enhanced

income support rate according to age - for pensioners is welcome for two reasons.

It offers help to the poorest pensioners. And equally important the Government, by implementing the pension guarantee, closes the debate on extending compulsory pension contributions for those still in work. Failure to follow this initiative with an extension of compulsion will play havoc with the economy and wider society.

If this guarantee is offered without extending compulsory pension savings for those now in work, then the most powerful and disturbing of signals will be sent out to today's workforce. It will be, "don't worry, don't bother saving, spend all you can today for tomorrow's taxpayer will look after you through the new guaranteed pension".

The alternative to this means-tested approach needs to be spelled out and support from the public gained for such an approach. That is the primary reason I have returned to the backbenches, I believe I will now have greater opportunity and more influence from that position.

JP 11/15/98

Quintessentially English

Time waits for no one, but one thing it doesn't alter is the British fascination with all that is utterly naff. By Andrew Brown

In a provincial clock shop, time accumulates like silt. You'd have thought that nowhere could be more up to the minute, even if not all the clocks told the right time; all march in synchronisation, sweeping along, rhythmic and unstoppable, like the distinct blades of an enormous harvesting machine.

And in some moments, time does appear like that: when a relative of mine learnt he was dying, the only concession he made to his new state was to develop a terrible fear of clocks. He continued, so far as he could, to live the same life, to the same rhythm, it had had for years: he went to the pub whenever he was sober, and returned home when he was drunk. But on every mantelpiece he could reach, he turned the clocks to face the wall.

Everyday time is not like that. We keep it safely girdled in clock faces, and cased in brass or steel. This means that any clock is essentially frozen in the moment when it was made, in a time that is measured as humans measure time, in associations and memories.

And so, in the shop where I had gone to buy a cheap alarm clock, I found myself plunged back 40 or 50 years. Stacked on the walls, waiting - how many years? - for buyers, were those tall wooden barometer sets, with a clock and a thermometer built in, otherwise seen only in homes last furnished in 1939. There was a small turned wooden stand, something between a mushroom and a truncated sundial, which turned out to be a table rest for fob watches. There were of fice clocks from the Fifties, built to beam like the morning sun on rooms full of typists and clerks.

Yet the place was doing a thriving, old-fashioned trade, repairing watches and mending their straps; while I was dithering between plastic alarm clocks, whose styling was no more than 10 years old, at least four other customers came through. All were served with grave Fifties' courtesy by an extremely elderly couple who seemed preserved by their surroundings, as if so much time had silted here that the river had meandered, and started,



The English take the sun, in all their essential, life-giving naffness, at Bournemouth Beach, last Saturday

Phil Yeomans

around them, to flow backwards.

The economics of the clock business are mysterious. Paying more for a time-keeping device hardly increases the accuracy with which it tells the time; almost everything you can buy today has an electronic mechanism inside that costs nothing and works perfectly for ever - or at least till the year 2000.

IF THE price of a watch is set by reference to its use as jewellery, and

clocks are priced as ornaments, a premium is applied for bad taste. No doubt this explains the profusion of clocks in B&Bs. It is possible, and patriotic, to believe that the dreadful bad taste of almost any English hotel room, that the English themselves can afford, is purely coincidental. You know what I mean: the knitted covers on the lavatory rolls; the bunched stiff nylon sheets; the muzak at breakfast; the pervasive smell of carpet cleaner and the wallpaper so vivid it is like ammonia in

the eyes. All these were exemplified by a converted Georgian farmhouse on the edge of Dartmoor where I stayed with my wife, six years ago.

Everything we ate there, including the vegetables, had obviously been warmed direct from the can. This cuisine affected our baby daughter so powerfully, that when she decorated a huge swatch of the pink carpet, we couldn't feel guilty at all.

This kind of décor seemed such

a grotesque distortion of the beauty that England can contain that I used to feel it was all a con-trick on foreigners. But it is not. Nor is it an accident. These are the outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual ugliness.

The English are not so much haters of beauty as lovers of tat. Side by side with our ferocious snobbery, and probably the only thing that makes it bearable, is a deep national passion for naff. Not even the Belgians or the Germans can real-

ly beat us at this sport. Down the road from our clock shop is another mysterious piece of the provincial economy: a shop that sells mantel ornaments: little models of country cottages; china dolphin families all cuddling together; hand-carved wooden wizards bowed over blue crystal balls. You won't see worse things than that even in the windows of a German art gallery. You won't even see worse in an English Craft Fair.

And if anyone still doubts the essential, life-giving naffness of the Brits, the summer over the last week should have cleared away all doubts. As the sun blasts down on sweaty bare chests, string vests, tat-toos and ankle chains, you realise that the only natural covering for a British body is the Union Flag, as worn by discerning football followers everywhere.

I SAY "dildo" more often than most people. This is probably because I was a religious writer for a long time, and so had to establish my naff credentials by swearing a lot. But it can lead to some embarrassment.

The remote control on the television is known in this house as the dildo. By extension, this applies to any useful widget, which explains why last week I asked a fellow journalist who passed me her Psion hand-held computer where the stylus that controls it was - except that what I actually said was "Where's your dildo?" She bore up bravely.

The Psion really is a miraculous widget. It is a little smaller than a Flofax, and does all the usual computing things - renders you completely dependent, baffles you, gives a charming backlit grin, then loses all your data. My geek friends all prefer the far more futuristic Palm Pilot, which has no keyboard at all. This may be because it is smaller and lighter, but I think it's really because you have to learn an entirely new alphabet to communicate with it and they feel uncomfortable with languages that too many other people speak. Journalists, however, need something they can type on; ideally it would also have a long battery life. It doesn't need a colour screen at all. The Psion does both, and fits into any pocket.

This would have been miraculous enough at the last Lambeth conference 10 years ago. It shows technology has almost surpassed the paper notebook in speed and ease of use. But the Psion does more than that: it plays chess, which notebooks don't. It sends faxes, and receives them, at least in theory. It ought to come with a pencil sharpener, so that people with normal-sized fingers could type on it, but that is a small imperfection.

The one thing the Psion will not do is replicate the full functionality of Microsoft products: for instance, if you type into Word 97, the phrase "I'd like to kill Bill Gates" and ask for synonyms, the programme replies: "I'll drink to that."

RIGHT OF REPLY

GRAHAM GREEN



An industrialist answers Gordon Brown's criticism of manufacturing productivity

THE UK chemical industry is "world class" because it has to be to survive. For my company, W. Canning plc, to survive, we have to be world class and competitive. Technology, quality, service and price are what we have to manage every day against some very good overseas competitors.

Governments can and do survive without having to be competitive. Companies like mine simply won't. What we want the Government to provide is a suitable environment in which we can grow our businesses in whatever markets we sell to.

A suitable fiscal environment for an exporting business like ours, requires stable interest rates. The role government can play is cutting the costs of business. If the Government wants a quintessential example, it should look at how the British government developed and led the success of the Hong Kong economy. That success was created by a government which really understood what business needed to succeed.

Industrialists with my background have no real confidence in running social security, the NHS or the Ministry of Defence or whatever. Requirements of these "businesses" are completely different to our own. But we do know how to run manufacturing, we do know how to sell overseas, and we do know we need the support of our government in creating the right environment for success.

Productivity tables focusing on the best, and not the worst, example may help; but what we really want are stable interest rates, so that we can set a world-wide pricing policy that lasts for more than five minutes.

Leave government to govern and industry to industrialists, and aim to positively support each other through our efforts.

Sympathy for the old devil

SOME THINGS cannot be quite forgiven. Like many other Germans with jobs to get or keep, the conductor Herbert von Karajan joined the Nazi party in 1935; like a lot of people in the aftermath of their success, he applied to join two years earlier - and forgot to send his subscription. He was young and ambitious and he did what he thought expedient. And it was something terrible.

In spite of a myriad vague accusations, that was the worst he did. There is no evidence that he denounced or betrayed anyone. He was a young star of German music, distrusted by the regime for the simple reason that Hitler did not like his conducting. Also, he had a taste for modern music, and banned music. When alone, he and Siemens of Deutsche Grammophon would play Mendelssohn - banned as a Jew - together.

When, ultimately, he was faced with important moral choices, he did the right thing. He fell in love with Anita, who was half Jewish, and was told that if he married her he would never work again. He married her and took the consequences - as it happens, consequences that were never more than inconvenient. But he could not have known that.

Rumours of far worse always dogged him. He looked, and conducted, too much like the poster child of Prussian militarism for people to believe that he was as little guilty as he was. Osborne demonstrates that those rumours were based on mistakes or distortions. It has even been claimed that he divorced Anita in 1942, rather than marrying her.

Osborne has too little to say about the complications of Karajan's emotional life. When he divorced Anita, in 1958, to marry Eliette, he continued to behave publicly as if he were married to both, bowing to one at the interval of concerts, to the other at the end. For all his superficial conservatism, Karajan was a swinger at heart, and Osborne does not investigate these contradictions. He neglects the question of Karajan's women protégées. Clearly, when the



MONDAY BOOK

HERBERT VON KARAJAN: A LIFE IN MUSIC
BY RICHARD OSBORNE, CHATTO & WINOUS, £30

Berlin Philharmonic rejected the clarinetist Sabine Meyer; their principal reason was sexism, but another was dirty-mindedness. There are no grounds for assuming impropriety, but Osborne's failure to say this explicitly is a mistake. He particularly neglects protégées who failed and were dropped. One reason why he hardly talks about the Karajan recording of Wagner's Ring cycle

seems to be that it would involve talking about Helga Dernesch, whom Karajan plucked from obscurity to be the Brunnhilde of *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*. When Osborne does talk about the damage to Dernesch's voice during the recording of *Tristan*, it is to blame her. This begs a lot of questions. Standard criticism of Karajan has been his restricted repertoire. Osborne

convincingly shows that, when younger, Karajan conducted rather more new music than in his last two decades. He never recorded it because his recording companies would not let him - which is why we do not have, for example, his Shostakovich Eighth or Fifth. Oddly, the book does not include a discography. Osborne is a devotee of the work, and is snooty about criticisms. Karajan's obsession with perfection can be claustrophobic. James Galway talks of how the flute part in Bach's St Matthew Passion was shifted between players so that no one was ever heard doing anything so human as taking a breath.

Far too much of the time, Osborne talks about Karajan's wisdom or dignity. This is music, for heaven's sake, not philosophy. This attitude is of a piece with the sentimental idealism in some of Karajan's work that makes his later Brahms, for example, hard to like.

He was, as Osborne notices in some of his better critical pages, at his best when trying to make us hear for the first time. Karajan did not play Webern or Schoenberg like Boulez plays them, but his recordings were admirable servants of the scores. Again, there was arrogance here - he wanted to rescue great music from an avant-gardism that neglected his version of conductivity values.

Osborne is too kind about the way Karajan interpreted the Baroque and Classical periods. One does not have to be an authenticity transgressor to find his big-band Brandenburg Concertos camp. Again, Osborne could have tried a bit harder to second-guess posterity.

The most attractive part of this overly kind account of a fascinating dinosaur is Karajan's own essay on rehearsal. He had grown up in the hard school of small-town opera, and if he was at times obsessive it was, we should never forget, out of love of music. Proud, opportunistic, selfish, at times tasteless, Karajan, like the Flying Dutchman, is ultimately redeemed by that love.

ROZ KAVENEY

MONDAY POEM

BLUES

BY PETER ARMSTRONG

Less the voices than the rain
tapping at the window of every 78
that leaves you hang-dog and reverent
at the station or the crossroads,
witness to a denuded underclass
beautiful on ramshackle porches
and in low bars, whose untrue women,
bad pay, desertions and oppressions
get their come-uppance under
a glass-paper voice, the subversive
run of a guitar.

Quiet now:
over the dark a lovely sorrow drifts;
a slow freight rolls north, a child cries.
Tomorrow's millstone hurs against
another beer and a seventh chord.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Peter Armstrong's new collection *The Red-funnelled Boat* (Picador £6.99)

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Golovine (second from left) with (from left) Alicia Markova, Nina Vyroubova and Rudolf Nureyev after a 1961 performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* in Paris, in which Golovine played the Blue Bird

Serge Golovine

FOR MOST of his dancing career Serge Golovine was surrounded by many other glittering talents, but even among them he was outstanding. His floating elevation and fluttering batterie made roles such as the Blue Bird in *The Sleeping Beauty* supremely exciting. He was no mere gymnast, though; he allied his phenomenal technique with a classically pure elegance and rigorous musicality. Part of his gift was that rather than dancing on the music, he seemed to dance inside it.

As a small boy, he was musically gifted and studied the piano with his grandmother, who had been a successful concert pianist in her native Russia. Born in 1924, in Monaco, Serge Golovine had a Breton mother and a Russian father, a cavalry officer who like many emigré Russians had settled in the South of France and found jobless poverty. Serge also had a great-uncle, Alexander Golovine, a painter and stage designer who created the original Ballets Russes décor for Fokine's *The Firebird* in 1910.

But it was chance that took the ten-year-old Serge and his older sister Solange to their first dance lesson. One day their grandmother bumped into a ballet teacher, Julie Sedova, a former ballerina of the Russian Imperial Ballet. Sedova's pianist had fallen sick and she asked if Golovine's grandmother would fill in. "And bring me your little grandchildren if it pleases them," she added by way of thanks.

Golovine pushed himself hard in his training. In 1941, aged 17, he followed Solange into the corps de ballet of the Opera Ballet of Monte Carlo. Two years later, with Solange, he danced *Le Spectre de la rose*, in the role created by Nijinsky, whose leap through the window had staggered audiences. He was promoted to principal, but his prospects seemed to sour when Serge Lifar, exiled from the Paris Opera Ballet for alleged Nazi collaboration, took over as director.

In 1946, Golovine moved to Paris, accompanied by his whole family - including two younger brothers, Georges and Jean, also to become dancers - who lived crammed in a single hotel room. Accepted into the Paris Opera Ballet, he had to face being at the bottom again, but soon started leaping ranks. Lifar's return as director though was the signal in 1949 to go back to the Monte Carlo company, now appropriated by a Chilean-American, the Marquis de Cuevas. Backed by on-lap funding from his rich American wife, Cuevas transformed the company into an international star-filled machine called the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, with Bronislava Nijinska, sister of Nijinsky and a remarkable choreographer, as ballet mistress.

Once more, Golovine found himself in the corps de ballet. This time, moreover, there was much male competition at the top. Yet his lucky break came quicker than hoped: on tour in Barcelona in 1950

he replaced an injured André Eglevsky in the *Swan Lake* Black Swan pas de deux, partnering Cuevas's leading ballerina Rosella Hightower. He scored a huge hit and from then on audiences adored him - in France, in the United States, in London.

He went on to display the diversity of his talent. In 1951 John Taras created *Tornstana* for him and Hightower, a technical showpiece described as "the most difficult ballet in the world". In 1952, dancing the titular roles in Nijinska's productions of *Le Spectre de la rose* and *Petrushka*, he showed the expressive artist inside the dancer. He displayed a fantastical side in John Taras's *Piège de Lumière*. He captured the dramatic complexity of Albrecht in *Giselle* and of James in *La Sylphide*. He threw himself into the character ballets of Massine and Lichine. He was the bewitched poet in Balanchine's *Night Shadow* and relished the pyrotechnics of the same choreographer's *Pas de Trois Classique*.

Golovine impressed Rudolf Nureyev when joined the Cuevas company on arriving in the West. The two men alternated as Prince Désiré and the Blue Bird in the company's famously lavish *The Sleeping Beauty*, premiered shortly before Cuevas's death in 1961. In 1962, the company was dissolved and Golovine formed his own touring group, based in Geneva.

From 1964 to 1968 he was artistic director and choreographer of the Gene-

va Ballet where he staged the works he knew from Nijinska, Massine, Lifar and Balanchine. He mounted the ballets for companies elsewhere and was particularly admired for his production of *Petrushka* - the one Nureyev danced on television with the Joffrey Ballet.

His first marriage was to a dancer, Lilian van de Valde, with whom he had two daughters, Alexandra and Laetitia. In 1981 he accepted a teaching post at the Paris Opera Ballet School and there found not only pupils but romance. Decades earlier, as a 15-year-old ballet student, the school's principal Claude Bessy had been hopelessly in love with him. It had been a long wait, but they married two years ago.

Svelte and with a full head of white hair, Golovine was a delicious man with the graceful manners of old Russia. Although officially retired in 1997, he travelled widely as a guest teacher; and for the Paris school's annual programme last April, he had mounted *Night Shadow* and with Bessy had appeared in Lichine's *Graduation Ballet* playing the Old General to her Governor. On 4 June he received the Legion d'Honneur.

Nadine Meisner

Serge Golovine, dancer and teacher: born Monte-Carlo, Monaco 20 November 1924; married Lilian van de Valde (two daughters), Claude Bessy; died Paris 31 July 1998.

SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES

NICK DAVIES

Poverty creates a mutant society

TEN OR 15 years ago a rich man who wanted to take a cane to the back of a young prostitute would have had to pay £100 for each stroke; he can now do so for only a tenth of the price. It's a matter of supply and demand: there is a market surplus of desperate young women.

This simple statistic is a clue not only to the material hardship of the young women - aggravated almost inevitably by the chronic abuse of crack cocaine and alcohol - but also to a more fundamental and less tangible result of the new poverty that has invaded Britain in the last 20 years.

The key point about poverty is that it is not just a question of having too little money in your pocket. That is only the beginning. What really matters is the damage which poverty inflicts on the 13 million men, women and children in this country who suffer it: the physical damage which kills 115 people every day; the emotional damage which screams through the chaotic lives of street gangs and child prostitutes; the social damage in the epidemics of crime and drugs; and, finally, most significantly, a profound spiritual damage. Which is where the young women being beaten in brothels are so important.

There is a brazen loss of humanity in their lives. The men who beat them treat them merely as objects. The same is true of the people who run the brothels. What soon becomes clear, however, is that the young women on the receiving end of this exploitation treat themselves with the same cynical indifference.

In the ghettos, red-light areas and crackhouses the most striking single point is that people treat themselves and each other as mere objects. Like the child burglars who target homes which have ramps or handrails outside, because they know they will find the old and vulnerable inside them; the two junkies who woke up to find their 15-year-old companion dead on the bed beside them and who reacted by fixing another needle and going back to sleep; the homeless men who set themselves up as "taxmen", extorting money from beggars in the West End of London; and, over and over again, the boys and girls in almost every city in England, selling themselves assiduously to passing men as if their bodies were unwanted property to be risked and discarded at will.



Drugs lead to social damage

It is not that they themselves are inherently bad or inhuman. That is simply the self-serving fiction of the rich. The truth profoundly is that poverty is bad for people. It brutalises them. It has produced a mutant society. And the final point about this, is that there is a kind of contagion about it.

The affluent couldn't step over a body in the street, ignore a beggar outside the opera or drive straight past the endless devastated housing estates unless they had learnt to bury their compassion. This is what they have done, and now government after another has endorsed them. Every time a government minister from any party stands up and declares war on the welfare state, every time some respected thinker jeers at the idea of equality, or contrives a case for stripping the poor of yet more benefits, they give a cloak of credibility to this hardness.

Thus the mainstream society succumbs to a coarseness of values, a trivialisation of care. More than that, the poverty of their 13 million neighbours is a constant warning to the affluent of what can happen to those who fail, an invitation to work with more selfishness, a reason to care less about the unfortunate - to live by the morality of the brothel.

Nick Davies is the author of *Dark Heart: the shocking truth about hidden Britain* (Vintage £7.99)

Woman's remains 'were not torn by animals'

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

10 AUGUST 1989

At her inquest in Nairobi, Kenyan police say that Julie Ward, 28, from Bury St Edmunds, was killed by wild animals. Her father believes she was murdered

A WILDLIFE documentary producer yesterday told an inquest into the violent death of a British woman in a Kenyan game reserve that he saw no signs that the remains of one of her legs had been torn by animals.

Kenyan police say that Julie Ward, 28, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, wandered into the bush after her car broke down last September and was killed by wild animals. Her father believes she was murdered.

In questions to Paul Weld-Dixon, who described himself as familiar with how carnivores devour corpses, Alex Etyang, the lawyer representing the Kenyan government, appeared to seize on testimony that the leg bore a deep gash.

"Had the meat been torn out?" he asked.

Mr Weld-Dixon, a Briton who has lived in Kenya for 25 years, told the inquest in Nairobi: "This would not have been caused by the teeth of animals."

Mr Etyang also questioned why Mr Weld-Dixon, in a statement to police, failed to note an alleged remark by Dr Adel Yousef Shaker, the pathologist, that Miss Ward had been murdered.

Mr Weld-Dixon said he had been asked only to identify the remains, and had limited his comments to that. John Ward, the dead woman's father, has spent £25,000 and flown to Kenya 11 times amassing evidence.

Much of yesterday's testimony by four witnesses centred around Miss Ward's arrival in Kenya in June and her movements up to her disappearance in the Mara game reserve in September.

Mr Weld-Dixon had let Miss Ward camp in the garden of his house just outside Nairobi when she first arrived. He had stayed loosely in touch with her until her departure on 3 September for the Mara district in a battered second-hand Suzuki jeep.

Mr Weld-Dixon had arranged to drive Miss Ward to the airport for a flight home at dawn on Saturday 10 September, so became concerned when she had failed to make contact as planned on the previous day.

On the Monday he had driven to Nairobi, a provincial town between Nairobi and the Mara, met police and posted a reward of £5,000 Kenya shillings (about £145) for information about her.

By then, Mr Ward had flown in and organised a massive air search that, on Tuesday 13 September, found first her vehicle stranded away from the Mara's roads, and then her remains about six miles away.

The official pathologist's report, which was later made public, concluded that Miss Ward's remains had been torn from her body rather than cut. Mr Ward plans to present evi-

dence that the report has been altered, with the words "cleanly cut" and "sharp wound" crudely retyped with "torn and cracked" and "blunt wound".

In Britain, pathologists who have examined the remains have concluded that the leg and jaw were severed, then burnt. In his questioning of witnesses, Mr Etyang showed particular interest in Miss Ward's associations with men. He asked Mr Weld-Dixon whether she had been living alone at her room in Nairobi. He later asked David Weston, an American pilot she had met at the Mara Serena lodge hotel the day before she disappeared, whether he had been in her bedroom. He had not, he told the court.

The inquest is to continue through this week and is expected to be adjourned for perhaps a fortnight, with lack of space on the court schedule given as the explanation. The initial indications from the state were that it might continue denying that Miss Ward was murdered, and would perhaps suggest she was killed and eaten by one of the many carnivores that roam the Mara.

Such a conclusion, with its implication that Miss Ward was a foolish woman who wandered from the beaten track, would reassure Kenya's government at a particularly delicate time.

A series of isolated killings in game parks has left the country anxious to avoid publicity that might jeopardise earnings from tourism, its leading foreign currency earner.

Todd Shields

From the Home News pages of 'The Independent', Thursday 10 August 1989

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

ALSAFFAR: On 31 July 1998, to Sandra Jane (nee Gillespie) and Layth, a son, Samuel Morgan Johnstone. Many thanks Independent Hearts.

DEATHS

KITSON: Professor Michael William Leys, peacefully on 7 August 1998, dear husband of Annabella, father of Nicholas and Francis. Memorial service to be announced.

POOLE: Margaret Joyce, nee Kyle, peacefully at the Borders General Hospital, on 8 August 1998, beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Loved by all her patients and her many friends, and a generous friend of the Jesuit Order. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Kelso on Friday 14 August, at 2pm, followed by burial at Eddam Churchyard. All friends are warmly invited.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

MARRIAGES

Dr J.S. Heffer and Miss C.M. Kay. The marriage took place on Saturday 8 August, in Oxford, between James Heffer and Caroline Kay. A lunch was held afterwards at New College.

Miss J.K. Riley and Mr C.P. Williams. The marriage took place on Saturday 8 August at St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, between Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Riley, of Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, and Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Ernest Williams, of Cardiff. Miss Katy Inall and Miss Harriet Marshall were the bridesmaids. Mr David Helps was the best man. Canon Norman Howes conducted the service.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr John Aldis, conductor, 69; Sir Frank Bowden Bt,

retired landowner and industrialist, 88; Dame Gillian Brown, former diplomat, 75; Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 65; Sir Lawrence Byford, management consultant, 73; Lella Campbell, former chairman, Ilea, 87; General Sir George Cooper, former Chief Royal Engineer, 73; Mr Eddie Fisher, singer, 70; Miss Rhonda Fleming, actress, 75; Professor Alexander Goehr, composer, 66; Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman, Lloyds Regulatory Board, 65; Professor Adrian Harris, clinical oncologist, 48; Mr Roy Keane, footballer, 27; Mr Leonard Lickorish, former Director-General, British Tourist Authority, 77; Mrs Barbara Mills QC, director of Public Prosecutions, 58; Mr Kaye Oliver, ambassador to Rwanda, 55; Miss Kate O'Mara, actress, 58; Mr David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, 65; Lord Steward, former government minister, 63; Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, literary consultant, 79; Mr Richard Unsworth, novelist,

68; Mr Richard Wells, chief constable, South Yorkshire, 58; Ms Rosa Winterton MP, 40; Miss Jane Wyatt, actress, 87.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Bernhard Nieuwenijt, mathematician, 1854; Sir Charles James Napier, military commander, 1782; Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, statesman, 1810; Jay Cooke, banker, 1821; Charles Samuel Keene, artist and illustrator, 1823; Alexander Konstantinovich Glazunov, composer, 1865; Hugo Eckener, aeronautical engineer, 1888; Laurence Robert Binyon, poet and playwright, 1869; Herbert Clark Hoover, 31st US president, 1874.

Deaths: John de Witt and Cornelius de Witt, statesmen, assassinated 1672; Allan Ramsay, portrait painter, 1784; Johann Michael Haydn, composer, 1806; Charles Wentworth Dilke, antiquarian, critic and

journalist, 1884; Charles Elme Francatelli, chef de cuisine, 1876; Edward William Lane, translator of *The Thousand and One Nights*, 1876; George Long, scholar and editor, 1879; Louis Vulliamin, historian, 1879; Otto Lilienthal, aviator, 1886; Oswald Veblen, mathematician, 1960.

On this day: the Scots defeated the English at the Battle of Otterburn, 1388; the Spanish and the English defeated the French at the Battle of St Quentin, 1557; the French took Arras, 1640; the Marine Aquarium was opened in Brighton, 1872; the first Promenade Concert was given by (later Sir) Henry Wood at the Queen's Hall, London, 1895; the Parliament Act was passed, reducing the power of the House of Lords, 1911; British Members of Parliament voted to receive salaries for the first time (£400 p.a.), 1911.

Today is the Feast Day of St Laurence of Rome.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, 7th International Congress of Plant Pathology, attends the Opening Ceremony of the

Congress, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

ASSISTANT RECORDERS

The following have been appointed Assistant Recorders on the Midland and Oxford Circuit:

Jonathan Leslie Baker; James Michael Burridge; District Judge Martin John Cardinal; Graham Hilton Cliff; Gregory David Mark Dickinson; Roger Kenneth Evans; Nigel Graham Godsmark; Avtar Amarjit Singh Khangure; Colin Richard MacIntosh; Sarah Ruth Pugh; David Michael Pittaway; Timothy John Spencer.

FOLLOWING our discussion a few days ago about whether the alleged Cabinet "reshuffle" was only a shuffle, Barbara Applin has written to ask why moral men never take people to firement homes and why we don't just lax instead of relaxing. Moral men should be employed only by second-

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON refurbish, v.

time huyers moving from a first house. Subsequent moves are removal. Relaxing is, I think, more relaxing than laxing; it suggests that looseness (from the

Latin *laxus*, loose) is more natural than tension.

The one I cannot explain is refurbish. Since refurbish itself means to renovate or polish up, there is no need to prefix it with re-, even if you have refurbished it before. On the other hand, you cannot novate anything unless you throw it away and buy a new one.

Why the work ethic remains

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK, A HUSBAND AND WIFE TALK ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRYING TO RETIRE

Writer and broadcaster Claire Rayner, 67, has been married to writer and painter Des Rayner for 41 years. They have three children and live in Middlessex.

Claire I think in some ways the only way to give up work is to both do it together – otherwise I know it would be so hard for Des. I think Des could retire if he didn't have quite so many ideas. If I said, "That's it," and shut up shop, I think he would as well.

We've got a comfortable income so we could easily settle down and stop working so hard, but the trouble is, we can't. It's an issue we think about far more these days – it's more meaningful now because we've got less time to live.

Yet we still get up every morning at six forty-five. I keep thinking, "Why on earth am I still getting up so early? Wouldn't it be nice to sit on the terrace and relax?" Instead my desk's piled up and there's lots of work to get through every day.

One bit of me has this golden vision of taking it easy and going to the opera; the other bit thinks we'd just lie around feeling bored. I think our relationship has survived on us both having to work. I'm a restless, striving, pushy old bag. Des gets bored easily, too. What first attracted me to Des was what he did for a living; the fact that he worked in the arts, and the energy that came from that. Undoubtedly, our ideas marched together.

I do honestly think if we just had to occupy ourselves with each other all day, we'd be at each other's throats before the month was out. Part of me agrees with that old saying, "you marry him for better for worse but not for bloody lunch". I really don't think it would be healthy for us to do nothing. I honestly thought the time would come when I'd be happy to sit back and be a grandmother, but it didn't work out that way.

I'm the one who thinks about taking life easy and giving up writing here, there and everywhere. But it's a fantasy really. When I gave up a medical column, I thought "life's going to be lovely; I can go shopping". Somehow I haven't let that happen.

The trouble is that, in journalism, you either work your butt off or you're worried sick that there isn't enough coming in. Here we are at 67 and 69, and still working flat out and do you know, I'll be doing it for the next 20 years. Sometimes I do think, all our lives we've been working so hard, and somewhere along the line did I let life go by without noticing?

But we've both got this puritan work ethic and treat it very seriously. We don't work to live, we live to work, but we're very lucky to be writing and painting. It's been hugely enjoyable. I really don't like the thought of twiddling my thumbs.

I used to think ambition would dwindle – if anything the drive gets stronger. Like sex, it's something that hangs around longer than you think.

Des I think when you both work at home, it's vital that you function autonomously. It's important that you have your own space. We don't stop together for lunch. I've got my own studio and I may not see or speak to Claire all day.

Work has been invaluable to both of us; we have such a productive working relationship. I'm Claire's manager and agent; as I've said before, I'm an agent with one client and what's more, I sleep with her.

I don't think either of us could give up the work and navel gaze all day. We'd have to take up something else instead. I certainly can't imagine Claire giving it all up. She'd get edgy, irritable and would feel she should be doing something more worthwhile after helping other people for



Claire and Des Rayner are sure that nothing could be more dull than not having any work to do

Kalpesh Lathigra

so many years. We've always had so much to talk about because of our work; constantly discussing ideas and asking each other what we think of this or that.

I've always respected everything she does. I've also felt that other peo-

ple can push her into doing more than she should. I've sometimes thought she works too hard – she's often been branded a workaholic. I always tell Claire she looks after the nation's health.

Doing nothing may appeal to me

for a month or two but it's a fantasy. The essence of day-dreams is not quite attaining them. It's no surprise to me that ambition doesn't die as you get older – it's part of nature. Even if you do sit around doing nothing, the ideas still continue to come

and you want to follow them up. I don't feel that either of us could cut off from aspects of the arts – arts with a small 'a'. If that's what has been going on for the past 60 years in your life, you can't just suddenly leave it all behind.

If you're the sort of person who rises to a challenge, the thought of retirement will always be difficult. I think I'd get terribly restless and irritable – if not like Victor Meldrew, then certainly his cousin.

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK

The holiday as trial by teenager

Planning a family holiday with today's sophisticated teenagers requires skilful diplomacy.

By Markie Robson-Scott

"BUT THERE'S nothing to do there. Why do I have to go? I'm not coming." After months of hearing this refrain from my 14-year-old son, I've given in. He doesn't have to come to France for a week with his parents and younger brother but can stay at a friend's house in London instead (far more convenient for honing his skateboarding skills). Part of me feels this signals a premature beginning of the end of family life; another part feels that if he's going to miserable, he will be.

It's a familiar sign of family life in the Nineties. We listen to our children far more than previous generations ever did, and so everything, including arranging the family holiday, is vastly complicated. Suzie Hayman, agony aunt for *Woman's Own* and author of *You Just Don't Listen: A Parent's Guide to Talking to Teenagers* (new from Vermilion) believes in negotiation.

"You're entitled to lay down ground rules," she says, "but then ask them what they think is right." You may be tempted to insist the family stays together but "carrying an unhappy teenager under duress on holiday is like having a parcel full of rotten fish – not ignored easily, and difficult to transform into pleasant company".

Invite their ideas on where, what and for how long, advises Ms Hayman. It might be easier to have two short holidays rather than one long one. Let them have a say, empower them, avoid the endless call of "But we always do what you want..."

Of course, this presupposes that your teenager will allow the discussion to move on. One friend managed it – just. After months of acrimonious talks punctuated by such remarks as "I don't want to come anywhere with you; not if my little sister's going to be there", it was established that everyone wanted a sea-based holiday, so after about three meetings, she says, "I unilaterally organised Club Med. What we'd like is to flop around and eat well in somewhere like Tuscany, but the kids would hate that."

Part of the problem is that parents often have a firm, probably unreal-



All teenagers really want is to be with other young people – the ideal holiday allows them to roam freely with friends

Chris Watt

istic image of an ideal holiday, while teenagers, although quite positive of what they don't want, in fact don't have the experience to know what something new would be like. And they often lack organisational skills.

"If she can arrange something else that's not too expensive, where there's supervision that I approve of, then she doesn't have to come," says a friend with a 16-year-old daughter, "but this hasn't happened yet. So last year she came to Austria with us, which was a complete nightmare."

'Teenagers are so sophisticated nowadays. If somewhere is expensive enough, they'll come. If I offered them all a skiing holiday, I don't suppose there'd be any non-takers'

She stayed in bed sulking most of the time. And she didn't organise for a friend to come as well: she'd left it too late and anyway, she said, the house in Austria was too boring to invite anyone to. Later I found out, to my fury, that my husband had bribed her to come because she'd told him that if we'd let her stay in London she'd have been able to work and earn money.

But there may be more to teenagers' protests about not wanting to come on holiday than meets the eye. Gabrielle Rifkind, a group

psychotherapist and mother of a teenager, believes that teens often want to be persuaded to come just so that they can sulks and protest.

"They're saying, 'I'm different from you and I need to make these statements. I want to be under your wing and I'm not going to let you know.' And although they can't admit it, there is relief to be found in escaping peer pressure."

Jeannie Milligan, a psychotherapist at the adolescent department of the Tavistock Clinic in North Lon-

don, agrees. "Taking a teenager's statement at face value is very questionable. They need to fight about it."

"The ideal model is to meet as many people's needs as possible," says Doro Marden of Parent Network. This includes the parents' desires: "Martyrdom is the eighth deadly sin." But if your teenager has a passion, be thankful and work around it. Ms Marden has a 13-year-old daughter who's mad keen on horses, so for the third year running she's going riding with a friend for

a week. Then, later in the summer, the whole family, which includes two older teenagers, is going to the Edinburgh festival. There was unanimous approval for this plan.

"They're so sophisticated nowadays," says Ms Marden. "If someone where is special or expensive enough, they'll come. If I offered them all a skiing holiday, I don't suppose there'd be any non-takers." Cynical but true: California is cool, France is not. A friend's daughter, now at university, can hardly stand her parents even for a weekend, but when they mentioned that Colorado was on the agenda, she made interested noises.

All teenagers really want is to be with other young people, says Ms Rifkind, so often the ideal solution is to find a place where they can form a gang and have the freedom to roam around. "Our most successful holiday ever," says Anne, whose daughter was 13 at the time, "was when we rented a house in France with other cottages around it. There was a riding stables and a swimming pool and table tennis; the parents could get together in the evening and the kids were really happy."

For 10 years, Mike Freeman has turned this ideal scenario into a way of life. Every summer, for 10 days at the beginning of August, Campus – he calls it a civilised Glastonbury – is created in the grounds of a small stately home in East Devon, and teenagers come, mainly (unbelievably) with their parents. It started out as a theatre and music festival

with childcare. "As we grew, we evolved a teenage population." His own sons grew with it; they're now 17 and 10. "It's a way of being semi-detached," says one parent, whose children camped while the parents stayed nearby at a guest house.

For teens at Campus, "There's lots of hanging out, sleeping till lunch and staying up all night waiting for dawn," says Diana Wockertsch, who has taken her three children, now aged 16, 13 and 10, to campus for eight years in a row. "It's freedom within a safe environment. I expect drugs are present but I've never witnessed anything out of order."

As children get older, you do see less of them; another reason why family holidays can be tense, unnatural affairs. You're at work all day, they're at school, and then suddenly you're all in fearfully close proximity for days on end.

Doro Marden looks back at one of her daughter's holiday history. "At 15 we left her alone in the house with a friend; at 16 she went camping with friends in England. At 17 she inter-railled with a couple of friends for six weeks."

But I'm racked with guilt about my son. Have we failed to listen to the subtlety of his protests? Did he really want us to make him come? I gave him a chance to change his mind and the answer is still brutally clear.

Still, next year I'll try harder and round-table discussions will be the order of the day. Just as long as we don't all end up in a skate park.

For the love of babygrows and a dog called No

IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

DOUG AND BUSTER had their first row this morning. They shouted quite seriously at each other and Buster went out to school with "And don't slam that door!" ringing in his ears.

Of course, I saw it all coming. The row and the anxiety. Buster has been preparing his costume for the competitive fancy dress at the PTA summer barbecue on Friday, and is finding the conversion of a bin bag to Costa Rican rain forest a little stressful. For a week, the whole house has been taken over by dismantled cardboard boxes and little pieces of coloured paper as Buster worries and procrastinates and fails to get the job finished. All of which is a complete mystery to Doug, who dropped out of his primary school egg and spoon race in 1972 because he finds competition boring. So when there were paper leaves stuck to all the cereal bowls this morning and Buster was behaving as if he was about to take the last penalty against Brazil, Doug inevitably lost it.

My anxiety has a rather more obscure root. Buster and Bunny's first babygrows that I keep at the bottom of my knicker drawer and found myself sobbing over last week. Hard to explain the train of thought but it goes roughly like this: babygrows to ex-husband leading in spite of cute babygrow contents to not even shared babygrow experiences with Doug to keep him here.

However, my less emotional analysis of the situation may prove correct because, after the row, Doug didn't put his Scalextric set back in its box and say "I'm leaving", as I feared he might. There are things other than babygrows to hold a man after all. Poly tunnels for one. Our mole assassin neighbour Bob has decided he isn't going to get the price of a new Range Rover out of us in exchange for a corner of a wet field, and agreed a price we can actually afford. So

before the summer is out, Doug's empire of plants could be establishing itself under a roof of plastic in the meadow next door, and unless he wants to sleep in the hedge he'll have to go on putting up with the old lag and the pre-teens.

And although we will (probably) never have first-size babygrows to crouch over together, we will have first-size dog collars. Having got the "vein" and the "page three" on the dash of the Big White Van, Doug has now got the terrier, a ten-week-old Border who is far better looking than any human baby of the same age. And you can't get humans to poop on a sheet of *Indy* jobs pages at 10 weeks, or go through the right without crying. I won't tell you the dog's name because Doug is now rather ashamed of his choice (think classical literature, Italian). I'll just call him No, because all puppies go through a phase of thinking that's their name, anyway (No! Get down. No! Come here. No! Don't do that). The point is that Doug is similarly besotted with this doglet as I was with my babies, and although I didn't technically produce No, I was the one who humped into his breeder in the vet's waiting room and suggested we go and look at the puppies. I'm not saying it's like going through a pregnancy and childbirth together but it's as near as we're going to get, and at least we both bear the same genetic relation to No: it's about ten million years since the last shared ancestor. The bonding that Doug and I do over No certainly seems pretty parental: taking it in turns to walk him at six every morning, having him sprawled between us as we watch TV.

So I'll try and stay calm. No could be the key to it all, an object for all our love: Buster's, Doug's, Bunny's, mine, a joint interest to settle quarrels and sooth frayed nerves. No is of course "no" threat to anyone in the way a baby would be, except perhaps to our collie cross, Dog, and even she seems pleased finally to have someone lower in the pecking order than she is.

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It's time to ditch the dirt

Alfred Kinsey succeeded in changing America's attitude to sex. Now he is being labelled as a pervert. But what are the motives of those trying to rubbish him? By Roger Clarke

American sexologist Alfred C. Kinsey still excites extraordinary levels of controversy - some 40 years after his death. Tonight's *Secret Lives* documentary which claims to expose "Kinsey's paedophilia", has already been condemned in advance by Kinsey's newest biographer Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy as inflammatory, sinister and downright dishonest. "I was appalled, quite frankly," he tells me when I meet him at his publisher's office, after seeing the preview tape.

Kinsey's name is already dirt, thanks to a notorious recent hatchet job by yet another biographer. Only last year, James Jones in his *Alfred C. Kinsey: A Public/Private Life* claimed that not only was Kinsey a bad scientist, he indulged in peculiar acts of sexual self-mutilation on which floated a whole raft of dishonest behaviour.

In a sometimes overtly homophobic manner, he marks Kinsey down as a fifth-columnist gay man - the very image of deceit and lies. *The Times* published a leader after the book came out, and it was somewhat regarded as the last word on the sexologist: "his science (was) vitiated by his disregard of proper sampling methods," it boomed with almost Victorian indignance. "He was a voyeur, a paedophile, a homosexual."

Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy's new biography of Kinsey, called *Sex: The Measure of All Things*, is

published next week. It is a sane voice amongst the general hubbub and hysteria. But it wasn't for his sanity that TV producer Tim Tate recruited him for the Channel 4 documentary, in which he appears several times. It was for his notes on a paedophile's diary kept under lock and key at the Kinsey Institute. The Institute had refused Tate access.

"I admit I was naive, but there was no indication that they were going to make a case for Kinsey virtually being a paedophile," says Gathorne-Hardy, who denies being a Kinsey apologist. In an old-fashioned way he doesn't seem worried about himself, but feels errors are being made that he is honour-bound to correct. "There are legitimate criticisms to be made of Kinsey, but not on this level."

The world of Kinsey is the world of feuds - battles between academics and biographers mask a larger war between the forces of the progressive left and the forces of the reactionary right. As is so often the case these days, stories from the US tainted with insular American politics are delivered raw on the British doorstep with no attempt to analyse their origins.

The US Christian Right have been on Kinsey's case since he published his two pioneering books on male and female sexuality in 1948 and 1953 respectively. The Christian Right do not accept sexuality as a science. They believe Kinsey to be the father of sex education in schools, which has



Kinsey surrounded by his family in 1953: to say that he encouraged paedophilia is like saying those who study Aids are encouraging the spread of it

long been anathema to their cause. What are the accusations? He has been accused of distorting his figures from his love of the bizarre. He has been accused of encouraging group sex among his staff. He has been accused of being a closet homosexual and a masochist who inserted objects up his penis and even cut off his foreskin with a penknife. And now he is being accused of colluding with child rapists by not reporting them to the police, breaking the "confessional" of scientific research.

Tim Tate, who made the documentary, is no stranger to strongly polemical TV: an associate of Roger Cook, he is not from the sugar-and-spice school of programme-making. He wants to get your attention and then put his foot in the door. To this end he recruits a key figure of the Christian American Right, Judith Reisman. With her mannered delivery, this self-appointed nemesis of Kinsey

seems the epitome of the familiar fundamentalist far-right mix of sentiment and violence.

For purely dramatic purposes Tate recruits one unfortunate woman, who, abused by her father as a child, thinks that her father may have sent details of the abuse to Kinsey. A horrible thought of course - but one for which there isn't a shred of evidence. After a tearful recounting of her experiences, the programme concludes with this woman heaving herself beseechingly up the steps of the Kinsey Institute - apparently locked out and cold-shouldered by an inhuman collaborator of her abusive father, a scientist-monster who turned abuse into pie-charts and percentages. The building looks forbidding, cold and almost fortified. "It isn't even the Kinsey Institute," observes Gathorne-Hardy. "It's the clock-tower in Bloomington."

The documentary recounts how Kinsey had corresponded with two

especially unpleasant child-sex enthusiasts - one in the US, one in Germany - and used the data of the US man to produce one much-reviled chart on how long it takes pre-pubescent to reach orgasm.

"Kinsey saw paedophiles," says Gathorne-Hardy, a trace of exasperation in his voice. "He saw everybody - rapists, homosexuals, people involved in incest because he was going to write a book about sex offenders and there was no way he could study them without talking to them. But any kind of coercion appalled him in sex. And he sometimes changed his views. Once he came back from St Quentin prison in a complete state after speaking to rapists, who had all told him they would willingly re-offend as soon as they were released. He felt there was nothing left except to leave them in jail till they died."

Interestingly, Gathorne-Hardy accepts a central charge of the programme. "He should have been

honest about that chart on infantile sexuality, and where the data came from," he agrees. "But it was the had publication of science rather than bad science - much of that data has subsequently been proved."

I mentioned that many people watching the documentary would feel appalled by the views expressed by members of the beleaguered Kinsey Institute. To a man they seem like classically deluded academics who have spent so much time with their subject they have quite lost touch of how to speak to the outside world about it. "You must remember these are very old men, and one in particular, Clarence Tripp, is something of a loose cannon who seems to forget that his views are not always Kinsey's views. But to say they have encouraged the spread of paedophilia by studying it is like saying those who study Aids are encouraging the spread of it."

Gathorne-Hardy hopes Kinsey

will receive a more measured response in future. "I feel I have to stand up against this tide," he says. "He was a brave man and a pioneer whose figures, even when 'cleaned' up, still stand. His influence on more tolerant ways of thinking is still with us." And the future of the Kinsey Institute? They've already moved Kinsey's notorious sex-films to a secret location. And they have vowed to destroy painstakingly accumulated material (including a \$40 million erotic art collection, almost never seen) if the police arrive with warrants - as the Tate documentary suggests is desirable.

"I'm afraid a lot of material has probably already been destroyed by Kinsey's family," says Gathorne-Hardy, adding that they were "shattered" by Jones's book. "I think it's inevitable that things will be got rid of. They're under siege."

Secret History, tonight, 9pm, Channel 4.

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Most travel agents offer their own insurance packages, but those tend to be much more expensive. Shop around because banks, building societies, and even Help the Aged all offer competitive insurance. If you intend to make more than one trip, annual cover for the whole family can work out cheaper.

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- If you are involved in an accident do not admit responsibility or agree to pay any costs without talking to your insurer first. Get a police report, take statements from witnesses, and photograph anything that might be relevant.
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- Your insurance company should be a member of either the Personal Insurance Arbitration Service or the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau. If you make a claim and it is rejected by your insurer you can make a complaint to these bodies who will offer you useful advice and help you make your case.

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Bradford and Bingley: 0800 435642
Family Care: 0990 561224

Insurance for people with a medical condition
Chapman Hurst: 01253 884419
Bradford Peters: 01293 402222
Charwell Insurance: 0181 956 0901
Post Office: 0345 334455
Insurance Ombudsman Bureau: 0845 600 6866

Women Unlimited - The Directory for Life is published by Penguin, £9.99

Because I'm worth it

Continued from page 1

There is, certainly, a kind of force to her, one which has not only seen the *Watchdog* viewing figures rise from 3 million to 8.5 million during her five years as presenter, but has also got captains of industry on the run. Indeed, last week 10 heads of firms such as Dixon's and Ford Airtours and Thomson Holidays, met in London to discuss how she could be held in check. "We've obviously hit a raw nerve," she says happily. She likes power, I think, and to have such power over big businesses pleases her enormously. She also adores fame. "That's quite powerful in itself. I'm crap at cocktail parties, but one of the side effects of fame is that when you walk into a room, people do want to talk to you, and I love that. It's shallow, I know, but I do."

So, no, not truly a woman of the people, and never has been, as far as I can make out. Her family were post-war new-rich. Although her father, Bernard, was a mild-mannered remedial teacher with a musical bent - "he played the piano, the saxophone, the clarinet, the ukulele..." - her mother, also Anne, was the most formidable of women. Known locally as The Duchess, she transformed an inherited, Liverpool market stall that sold chickens into the city's largest poultry wholesaler. "Money," says Anne, "was definitely a significant currency in our house." Her mother worked hard - "she was up at 5 am most days" - but enjoyed the benefits of her wealth enormously. "Three times a year she would empty Bond Street. She'd go to the Mitzi Gaynor hat shop, and Asprey's for another Piaget watch. She liked her sheets from The White House and facials at Elizabeth Arden. If you couldn't choose between two dresses, she'd say, 'Have both'. She sent me to Champneys to recover from my O-levels. She had complete contempt for housewifery. When I first got married, she solemnly gave me two pieces of advice: 'Have a facial once a month and get help in the house.'"

Anne's childhood summers were spent partly in the Carlton Hotel, Cannes, and partly on the chicken stall, so that Anne was always aware that you have to earn if you want the

nice things in life. She would have to stand there, she says, shouting: "Chickens, chickens. Only 7/6, and only an hour to cook." Her father doesn't really seem to figure, although she says he had "a wonderful life" and "absolutely adored" her mother. Strong women. Weak men. Earning a lot. Spending a lot. Getting other people to attend to you. It's what, it seems, she's always known.

Anne was dispatched to a convent boarding school at nine, which she didn't mind at all. "There was a striped blazer. It was very Angela Brazil." She thought, initially, she might become an actress, but then changed to journalism. She isn't sure why. She trained with a London news agency, then got a job as a reporter on the *Daily Mail*. She arrived on her first day in a new milk coat and bought for her by her mother. "She thought if I was going to stand around on doorsteps, I might as well be warm."

She met Charlie Wilson, a volatile Glaswegian, while on the *Daily Mail*. He was the deputy news editor at the time, and was widely fancied, although everyone told Anne he would never marry, which, of course, made it imperative that she got him, and she did. They married after an eight week, whirlwind romance, but it seems to have been pretty disastrous from the word go. Strong man. Strong woman. Not something that, perhaps, Anne had ever been equipped to deal with. Plus, she just was not cut out to be a corporate wife. When they divorced, "his barrister asked if it was true that I'd rather report on the Vietnam war than Hoover the sitting room. Absolutely, I said, which in those days was considered disgraceful." They fought about everything, including who should look after their daughter, Emma. It all became very nasty.

Eventually, joint custody was awarded, but not before Anne had, apparently developed something of a drink problem. I tell Anne I can't imagine her as a drinker, as out of control in any way. Was she really an alcoholic? "I stopped drinking in order not to discover," she says. Why did she drink? "Why does anyone?" How bad did it get? "Pretty bad." Did you ever wake up next to

someone you couldn't remember having gone to bed with? "No. Or, if I did, I've forgotten."

She said it was Emma, now in her late twenties and working in television, that got her through. She would have liked more children, she adds. "But I had a miscarriage with Johnny and never got pregnant again. I don't know why." Yes, Emma had full-time nannies and, yes, she says she does rather regret this now. "I find myself looking at the young women in the *Watchdog* office, the ones with children, and find I want to say: 'Go home and look after your baby'." This is, of course, easy for her to say now. And I doubt, frankly, whether she would do anything differently, if she could have her time again. Being out there and achieving and being seen to achieve and earning lots and going to Kevin at Michael Johnson is, basically, what she's about. Anyway, she stopped drinking and pulled herself together sufficiently to, eventually, come back triumphantly as an assistant editor and columnist on *The Mirror*. She then went on to work for most of the tabloids, for increasingly large sums, until earlier this year when she decided to leave *The Express* for something much more genteel on *The Times* because "I just could not get excited about Anthea Turner's love life anymore." She has, she says, great admiration for *The Daily Mail's* Lynda Lee Potter, who is still going strong after all these years. "She once said it was unsexy for men to wear vests, so Charlie stopped wearing them immediately."

Frankly, I don't know what's made Anne Robinson such a highly-prized, journalistic asset over the years. Perhaps, ultimately, belief in your own worth really is the main thing. Anyway, I have to leave now, she says. She was hoping to go to Soho and Rock on Kensington High Street to get some "walking stuff" but doesn't have time now. "So I'll just have to get all the gear when I get to Switzerland." We exchange a chilly handshake on the doorstep. I'm not sure why she didn't warn to me more. Perhaps I shouldn't have boasted about Fishguard and all those points on my BHS card. In retrospect, I can see it was foolishly provocative. Another item for *Botchjob*, perhaps?

From stand-in to superstar

Telling himself that he is an actor not a movie star is becoming increasingly difficult for Samuel L. Jackson. By James Rampton

IN THE early Seventies, Samuel L. Jackson was appearing in plays so far off Broadway they were virtually in New Jersey. "There were times when they only paid me \$35 for the whole run. You'd spend that getting the train to the theatre." He also ran a community theatre company that would put on political diatribes masquerading as plays. They had a common theme which Jackson now characterises as: "Die, whitey, die—so black folk can take over". They did not attract huge audiences.

That was then... Now, Jackson is a Hollywood big shot, the sort of actor whose very name attached to a project is enough to have execs flashing green lights at it. A US entertainment magazine recently voted him joint top movie star (with Kevin Spacey). Add five oughts to the wages he got off, off, off Broadway, double that figure, and you are getting close to the fee he commands for a film these days.

After years of struggling—as recently as the early 1980s, Jackson had the none-too-glorious role of being Bill Cosby's stand-in for the set-up shots on *The Cosby Show*—he has now reached the major league. Only last year, when he had the triple whammy of working on *Sphere*, *Jackie Brown* and *George Lucas's* prequel to *Star Wars*, did he allow himself the luxury of a pat on the back. "I'd worked with Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro, and all of a sudden, I'm standing on a set doing scenes with Yoda. I said to myself, 'I've arrived'."

Putting his feet up on the windowsill in one of London's more upscale hotels—the sort of place where Hollywood stars book out just suites but apartments—the 49-year-old certainly has the easy air of someone who has made it. He is wearing a reversed black Kangol cap and smoking contentedly. Peering at me over trendy half-moon specs, or distractedly scratching his greying goatee, he has the relaxed demeanour and rich, unforced laugh of someone at the top of his game.



Samuel L. Jackson: 'I would find it kind of hard to be Bruce Willis...'

Rui Xavier

His success has been helped not only by the fact that he has—in the dreadful Hollywood parlance—"crossover appeal". He has attained such a status that he can now bypass the outmoded stereotypes of pimps and pushers to be cast in "colour-blind" roles. Indeed, the part he played in the actioner *The Long Kiss Goodbye*, was originally written for a white actor.

Junior Simpson, a young, black British performer, for one, admires what Jackson has achieved. "I look at Samuel L. Jackson and see someone who has made the transition from being a black actor to an actor

who just happens to be black. Look at him in *Sphere* or *Patriot Games*—those parts could have been played by white actors, and, 10 years ago, they would have been. Steps are being made forward thanks to people like Jackson."

The man himself confirms that "I read a lot of roles that aren't race-specific. My agent sends me a lot of scripts that are just guys, not specifically African-American or West Indian. The fact that I've already done a diverse number of roles makes me more palatable."

Even now, however, Jackson is not immune to old-school Tinseltown

prejudice. "Sometimes, when executives read a script and it doesn't say 'African-American', they take some convincing that I'm the guy who can do that. When my name comes up, it's 'oh, my God, I hadn't thought of him'. But the world does have people like us in it. We do almost every job that's out there. Sometimes, you look at a movie and say, 'where are we?' How can you shoot, say, a Woody Allen movie in a city as large as New York and still say 'where are the ethnic people?' It's strange."

"Prejudice is part and parcel of the job. Other actors go through the same thing, whether it's because

they're young or blond. A lot of the people in suits who make these decisions are very narrow-minded. They're business rather than creative people. They're part of show business—with the emphasis on business. Some people perceive it as a slight, but understanding who these people are prevents me from being frustrated by it."

After years of well-regarded, but lower-profile supporting parts in such films as *Ragtime*, *Jungle Fever*, *Sea of Love*, *Coming to America*, *Do the Right Thing* and *Goodfellas*, Jackson was thrust centre-stage by his role as the

Scripture-quoting black-clad assassin, Jules, in Quentin Tarantino's wildly culty *Pulp Fiction*. The jury at Cannes liked Jackson's performance so much they created the new award category of Best Supporting Actor especially for him.

Jackson reckons the film struck such a chord because "Quentin gave people something new and unique, so they felt refreshed by it. We're fed the same thing so much by the Hollywood machine that when something like this comes along, it's engaging. Plus, Quentin is a consummate thief. He has watched so many films, and has this amazing facility for remembering specific scenes. He can mix'n'match from them so you think you're watching them for the first time."

He went on to star as an equally unsavoury character—in Tarantino's next opus, *Jackie Brown*. "My characters in his films are very verbal and theatrical. You know how they feel, and they're very personable people. No matter that they have antisocial jobs, they're acceptable as people who might live next door to you. I don't believe assassins sit at home sharpening their knives and polishing their bullets. They go to the store and drive their kids to school. They're normal people who just happen to have interesting jobs."

The only downside to his work with Tarantino was that Jackson was offered a string of Jules-like parts. "I could've been a gun-toting, Bible-spouting fool for the rest of my career, but luckily I was able to make some other choices."

For all his hits—more recent ones have included *Die Hard* with a Vengeance and *A Time to Kill*—Jackson tries to avoid the star schtick. "I consider myself an actor rather than a movie star. As soon as you start buying into that other thing, expectations become greater. I don't want people to view me as Samuel Jackson in every role. I want them to see the character. I'd find it hard to be Bruce Willis. I service the story as opposed to being its

main focus and saying 'look at me, here I am'. I am not John Wayne."

"Hollywood has a tendency to repeat itself. I read a lot of scripts that are similar—you read page five and immediately know what's going to happen on page 75. The challenge is to find things that allow you to grow as an actor. It's hard to go to a Stallone film and worry whether he's going to live or die—you know he's going to live. There's never any jeopardy. I prefer jeopardy."

Which is just one reason why he chose to star in—and, for the first time, produce—Eve's *Boyz*, an affecting low-budget debut from Kasi Lemmons. Set in the Louisiana of the early 1960s, it is a child's view of the effect of her ostensibly respectable father's (Jackson) philandering on the rest of her family. "People like stories about people. They look at their problems and wonder how they'd react to them and relate to them. There's not a lot of nonsense in this film. There are no dinosaurs or car chases."

Jackson sets a ferocious pace, averaging five movies a year. Soon, we will see him in *The Negotiator*, in which he and Spacey play police negotiators. *The Red Violin*, which tracks a violin's history from the 16th century to the present day, and *Deep Blue Sea*, the new action-adventure from Renny Harlin.

He also has his eye on a script about an American who brings a designer drug into Liverpool. He was intrigued by the fact that the character wears a kilt, though worried about having to be authentic in one. "I know people don't wear anything under their kilts. It's pretty cold in Scotland, so I guess they don't have to worry about their dangle bits..."

But perhaps Jackson's most eagerly awaited role is in the *Star Wars* follow-up, in which he gets to play the immortal line, "may the Force be with you". So, what part is he taking in this top-secret saga? "I could tell you," he chuckles, "but then I'd have to kill you."

"Eve's *Boyz*" is released on Friday

'Little rebel' without a pause

Sophie Marceau is used to corsetted historical roles.

In real life she holds nothing back. By James Mottram

BY HER own admission, Sophie Marceau's a pain in the neck. She talks too much, wants to do everything herself and complains about everything. She's the kind of actress who wants to play Hamlet and turned down Romya in Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *Cyrano de Bergerac* because she wanted Gerard Depardieu's role. Never reserved when she can be outspoken, the woman who thinks she looks like everybody from Isabelle Adjani to Claudia Cardinale has in the past branded President Mitterrand's architectural policies as "the gesture of a megalomaniac", despite being invited on a Far Eastern tour with the man.

Steer her to a pet topic and she, talks. About the decline of French cinema. Or the failure of the Mel Gibson-produced *Anna Karenina*. Marceau's second English-language film after Gibson's Oscar-laden *Braveheart*, gave her international recognition as Princess Isabelle. The role of Tolstoy's heroine was not the lead she dreamed of: "I can't watch it anymore. It makes me very sad. I think he [director Bernard Rose] could've done something crazier, with more love and more sex. Not sex scenes—I think they're ugly—but passion I love, and sexuality. But that's his [Rose] character. They recut the film, and now it's kind of awful."

No such criticism of her latest, William Nicholson's visually stunning 19th-century-set *Firelight*. Calling *Firelight* "a good honest film with a lot of human qualities and emo-

tions", Marceau features alongside the aristocratic Stephen Dillane as Swiss governess Elisabeth, who reluctantly agrees to give birth to a child in exchange for money to release her father from debt.

Marceau is married to the 55-year-old Polish director Andrzej Zulawski, who cast her as a teenage prostitute in the 1983 film *L'Amour Braque*. Born in 1967 and raised in the Parisian suburb of Sceaux, Marceau has spent much of her teenage life coping with stardom. Making her screen debut at 13 in the 1981 teen film *La Boum* (she reappeared in the sequel *La Boum 2*, a year later), Marceau got the part through an audition for a child modelling agency she approached for fun. A hit the world over—bar Britain and the United States—the film, along with the 100,000-selling pop-duet "Dream in Blue", precipitated her love affair with the French public.

She remains nonchalant about her early success: "A star? No. But some kind of phenomenon. It [*La Boum*] was a film that spoke to everybody. The phenomenon—the relationship between me, the cinema, the photos, the lights—it's been like that for 18 years now." And the price of fame? Marceau's part-time career as a model led to her face plastered by Christian Dior and Guerlain perfume across Paris; she regularly adorns the cover of *Paris Match* (her brother works there as a layout artist); and has she even been voted the woman most French men would like to have sex with.

"We are very much exposed, as it is, with interviews," she says. "People know everything—even if you like cats or dogs. Sometimes you just have to try to preserve what you have. I don't enjoy being recognised because people can disturb your privacy. They even wanted me to be in the wax museum. I said 'No! It's horrible. You can melt, and you shine, and you're in the dark all the time.'"

Despite this odd aversion to effigies of herself, Marceau has appeared in almost 20 films, working alongside some of Europe's leading directors, including Michelangelo Antonioni, for his meditative *Beyond the Clouds* and Bertrand Tavernier for his comic swashbuckler *D'Artagnan's Daughter* (the pair parted on less than pleasant terms). Now living on the outskirts of Warsaw, Marceau currently favours her British and American colleagues. A lifelong devotee of Elizabeth Taylor and Steve McQueen (her biggest regret was not meeting him), she gushes over Gibson and the veteran Nicholson, best known for his screenplay for *Shadowlands*.

She's a fan, too, of Kevin Kline—"he's handsome, he's healthy, he's complicated, he's so emotional"—and is set to appear alongside him, Michelle Pfeiffer and Stanley Tucci in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "One of my dreams was to play Shakespeare. I've always loved it with a passion. When I saw Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, I cried so much I was shaking," she says.



Marceau: *Paris Match* cover girl and 'a pain in the neck'

Yet to achieve the lead that will cement her once and for all in the public psyche, Marceau has begun to carve her own niche, writing and directing an eight-minute short, *L'Aube à L'Envers*, set in Venice and a near-autobiographical effort called *The Liar*, total creative control appears the only way to help curb her insubordinate attitude. "My mistake was to misunderstand the importance of the director. I always want to take care of everything myself—but as an actress, you can't. Being a director means being more free because you can control things. Like every child, I had my own ideas and opinions about things."

A self-described "little rebel", Marceau's confidence, self-belief, even nonchalance, are traits that govern her screen performances, roles that too often show her talent

straining against their limitations. Passionate to the extreme, Marceau is driven by her belief in independence, and wisely sees time for a change. "My parents told me to like my work. I wasn't a good student at school. I didn't work. I really have to like my work, or I'll leave because I want to be free. Rebellion is to keep your freedom. When I get the feeling that I belong to a system, I feel endangered. I have to sign a contract, but then I go home at night. I thought for a long time that I had to fight against authority to keep my freedom. I think now that I can be myself without help. Now I need to explore my work as an actress. I need to make contemporary films. *Midsummer Night's Dream* is the seventh costume drama in a row. When I see a corset now, I just want to be free."

"*Firelight*" is released on Friday

Russian flair in slow-motion

PROMS

ULSTER ORCHESTRA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

THERE IS a strong 20th century Russian flavour to the Proms at present, with large-scale works by Shostakovich and Prokofiev this weekend, and the British premiere of a major work by Sofia Gubaidulina on Monday. The season's "Power and Politics" theme helps account for this, but the opportunity to hear recent scores from a post-Soviet era operating under rules very different from those of the Socialist Realism that determined the course of Russian music for most of the century is very welcome.

Rodion Shchedrin, already in his sixties, is not as well known here as some of his contemporary compatriots, though his *Old Russian Circus Music* was performed at the Proms to some acclaim last year. *Four Russian Songs for Symphony Orchestra*, which received its world premiere on Friday, is the only Proms commission this year from a non-British composer. It is not a conventional song cycle with a vocal soloist, but, like *Old Russian Circus Music*, a concerto for orchestra, the fifth in a whole series.

This suggests the prudent skulduggery of a composer long familiar with ways of beating the Soviet system through hidden meanings. Something of that attitude seems to survive in Shchedrin's apparently rather free derivation of his material from earlier Russian sources: songs sung by blind wandering travellers to tell horses and people they were there; folk laments. Orthodox bell chimes, and Russian gypsy songs.

The results of all this were supposed to be extrovert. *Four Russian Songs* had some delightful moments of vivid orchestral flair, notably towards the end when a whole cacophony of chimes and bells was briefly let loose.

Shchedrin knows how to inflect an often simple, song-like melody plus accompaniment texture with flecks

of other timbres: a bizarre high trumpet, for instance. Yet the whole thing had a rather subdued air, not by any means straightforwardly extrovert, but rather hanging fire, with too much of a heavy tread and all of it in basically the same slowish tempo.

The Ulster Orchestra, whose only Prom this was, now has the Russian violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky as its Principal Conductor. Too many instrumentalists assume the podium these days, impatient, one often thinks with playing careers already fully achieved. As a violinist Sitkovetsky has a reputation for brilliance coupled to an idiosyncrasy that can sometimes be captivating, but at other times appears to be merely attention-seeking.

The performance of Tchaikovsky's "Fourth Symphony" had a few eccentricities: an enormous slowing-up just before the end of the first movement, for instance. In general, though, and despite the fact that this orchestra is scarcely our most polished, it was well controlled—Sitkovetsky has a better stick technique than some soloists turned conductors—and rose to the occasion with some moments of real power.

In Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*, Barbara Hendricks floated and coloured her line with consummate professionalism. But the distinctive character of each song remained barely grasped, and the total effect was in the end bland, due not least to the orchestra's rather flat-footed accompaniment.

This review appeared in some editions of Saturday's paper

KEITH POTTER

From Estonia to England via the way of the Tao

PROMS

BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA/IMPERIAL BELLS
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

AT FIRST sight this seemed like an exceptionally eclectic evening's music-making—three very different works by Estonian, English and Chinese-American composers, played by a Scottish Orchestra under a Polish conductor. As the concert progressed, though, a mysterious and intriguing web of interconnections began to become apparent.

The solemn atmosphere of Arvo Pärt's "Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten" was made all the

more poignant by the announcement of the death of Alfred Schnittke, and the dedication of this performance to his memory: from its opening bell stroke and shimmering high strings, its serene unfolding made an entirely appropriate gesture of remembrance for both these major figures

of our time. A sense of serene unfolding was one of the links between the Part and the sublime "Fifth Symphony" of Vaughan Williams.

It is always interesting to get a non-English perspective on this most English of composers, and Jerzy Maksymiuk provided just that, bringing out the more dramatic moments and revelling in the spiky cross-rhythms of the scherzo.

If the slow, mystical opening of the Romanza was less broad than one

might expect, and the brass occasionally more strident than majestic, nevertheless this was a convincing rendition, in which the BBCSO's woodwind were particularly eloquent.

The European premiere of Tan Dun's *Heaven Earth Man/Kind*—Symphony 1997, was conducted, very vigorously (with the vocal participation), by the composer himself.

Towering over the platform was the "bianzhong", a set of massive tuned bells—replicas of bells dating

from 433BC unearthed in China in the Seventies. Also featured was the solo cello of Yo-Yo Ma, whose virtuosic role ranged from the purest cantabile to hair-raising two-handed pizzicatos and imitations of Chinese traditional instruments—all of which he performed with total control and evident pleasure.

Last, but not least, redoubtable Proms veterans, the New London Children's Choir, took a star part not even turning a hair at being asked to sing in idiomatic Mandarin.

Influenced by Taoist concepts, this symphony contained echoes from many sources—touches of Messiaen, perhaps, an unexpected burst of Puccini; taped Chinese opera; even Beethoven's "Ode to Joy".

The bells, and the touching "Requiem" for the victims of war connected with Pärt's "Cantus", and in his own way Tan Dun was just as much on a quest for a Celestial City as Vaughan Williams in the "Fifth Symphony".

Perhaps it is no longer possible

in the modern world to be as "simple" as RVW (what about Arvo Pärt, though?), but there was a distinct feeling that Tan Dun had perhaps tried to embrace too much in this long, episodic piece, which didn't always seem to hang together. As the children's voices soared joyously in the infectious "Song of Peace", though, and the "bianzhong" sounded a final carillon, the "renunciation of nature and soul" did seem, momentarily, a real possibility.

LAURENCE HUGHES

JP 11/10/150

Channel 4's series *Critical Condition* has little good to say about reviewers, but it paints a dishonest picture. By David Benedict

Do we really need the critics?

Jon Ronson, at erstwhile print journalist much given to criticising, has recently turned himself into a documentary-maker. His series *Critical Condition* is set up as an open-minded investigation into the increasingly thorny question of arts criticism, but in fact there's an agenda. That's fine in theory, but when the agenda is both hidden and so far from the stated intent - and, presumably, from what Ronson told those taking part - a not-so-faint odour of dishonesty pervades the finished product.

Like everything aboard the current raft of workplace documentaries, the focus is on personalities. You can almost hear the sales pitch: "You gloried in Maudie in *Driving School*, you giggled at Jeremy from *Aeroflot* in *Airport*, now look at the pompous twits who write about art in the press".

What the first three programmes of *Critical Condition* really show us is the difference between being in front of and behind the lens. Following on from last week's scrutiny of comedy critic Ian Shuttleworth leaping over the footlights to perform at the Edinburgh Festival, this week's programme goes to the opera.

Martin Hoyle, the critic for the London listings magazine, *Time Out*, remarks of his peers that unlike him, "they're not all witty, soigné, charming, debonair polymaths". It is perfectly clear from his wince to camera that he is attempting to be ironic. But we don't see it like that because Hoyle was not in control of the editing. Ronson asks few questions, the camera rolls and Hoyle in his unhappy ignorance proceeds to shoot himself in the foot. He may have believed himself to be the subject of the programme but he is, in fact, the object. Ronson naively wonders if the melodramatic world of opera plots has infected those who write about it and his opera film spends its time with critics whose outside personalities are not matched by their sphere of influence.

Whatever you think of them, structuring an opera programme around commentators from *Time Out* and the *Daily Express* is hardly representative. It's like making a documentary about the Government and not speaking to anyone in the Cabinet. The core of this debate should be an analysis of the role and function of criticism, yet either by accident or, worse, design, the programmes fail to engage with this. Edward Seckerson, this paper's opera critic, addresses the issue when hauled unexpectedly in front of the camera on an opening night - but his contribution has been excised.

By extrapolating from the carefully edited remarks of those taking part, Ronson implies that virtually all critics are preening, arrogant and self-serving. Meanwhile, his own arrogance leads him to state of apparent surprise that so many are unwilling to appear on screen. When



Critic Ian Shuttleworth sampled life on the other side of the footlights in *Critical Condition*, and is back at Edinburgh this year to repeat the experience

Hoyle withdraws from the programme due to an appendicitis, Ronson enlists the voluble Tom Sutcliffe of the *London Evening Standard* (not to be confused with our own television critic) to do his dirty work for him. When Sutcliffe fails to get Rodney Milnes of the *Times* to dish the dirt

at the interval of a production, the implication is set up that Milnes is being secretive and difficult. Actually, Milnes is holding firm to his principle that he wishes to consider his own thoughts in private, rather than writing up a mish-mash of opinions culled from half-time croneism. This

is not some quaint idiosyncrasy, it's the mark of professionalism. Next week's programme moves to theatre. It purports to be investigating the vexed relationship between the critics and the wider theatre world but only manages to highlight theatre's fear and distrust of the

critical fraternity. Again, what you don't see is more significant than what you do. Where is the discussion about what good reviews can do for a production and/or its personnel? It is notable that artists much given to sneering at critics are rarely slow to accept awards from the critics' circle.

Why is there no talk about pressure on the critics when at least one broadsheet newspaper demands that reviews should be either wildly positive or virulently against? Instead we watch the business of an overnight review via Nicholas de Jongh of the *Evening Standard*. At

best, his experience is unrepresentative. His deadline is hours later than all other daily papers, whose journalists have to file their copy in little more than an hour because producers refuse to allow critics to see previews. This practice leads to snap judgements, which further inflames the division between what are unhelpfully regarded as opposing camps. Is any of this dealt with in the programme? What do you think?

Attacking critics is part of a cultural drift towards philistinism. Taking art seriously is frowned upon and serious art - as distinct from over-hyped commercial product - is sneered at as being shockingly elitist. A critic's specialised knowledge is regarded as deeply suspect, and in an age of fashionable cynicism, enthusiasm for one's subject is seen as frankly unmanly. (There are still very few female critics). Compare that with sports commentators, who perform a similar function but escape the term "critic". They are expected to know everything there is to know about who scored which goal where and when from the dawn of Association Football.

In most specialist fields of journalism, encyclopaedic knowledge and intimate understanding of a subject is seen as being essential. Merely having money in my pocket doesn't entitle me to write about finance. Yet anyone who has seen a play is regarded by some editors as a potential theatre critic. It's true that you don't have to be a hen to know how good an omelette tastes, but knowing that heating the pan fiercely before adding the eggs will stop it going leathery informs your judgement.

By ducking the crucial issues, Ronson's series ends up aligning itself with the modish, intellectually lazy, anti-critical faction, but the logical extension of that argument is frankly dangerous. Banish critics and you're left with the proliferation of ill-informed commentary by non-specialists who have nothing to declare but their ignorance. It also ignores the fact that loyal readers grow to understand the taste and viewpoint of a regular critic, allowing them to read reviews in the light of that knowledge. Worst of all, without critics, audiences are left to the mercy of advertising.

As a critic, of course, would botch contest the notion that we are all a bunch of antediluvian parasites, but it must be conceded that genuinely good criticism is, sadly, rare. However, suggesting that it is all worthless because some people do the job badly is absurd. Criticism is one of the links between a work of art and its potential audience. Writing passionately about its emotional and intellectual effects can promote a greater understanding in the reader. On occasion, it even sells tickets. I'm sorry if I sound overly defensive, but as someone who cares about the arts, I happen to think such things are important.

'Critical Condition' is on Channel 4 at 11pm on Wednesday

Hack comes back to take an axe to the Fringe

EDINBURGH 98

IAN SHUTTLEWORTH and Richard Hurst can't buy my approval. I am deaf to their repeated references to days in the past spent tirelessly covering the festival for this paper. Their having presented me on stage with the *Critical Mass* Award - a boxed vitamin C pill - makes no odds. Anyone who saw the first instalment of *Critical Condition* last week will trust these assurances about as much as refugees would a UN-maintained safe haven.

But for what it's worth, Shuttleworth, the comedy critic of the *Financial Times*, has more reason to

quake in his loafers than put his feet up when it comes to this review: the wound inflicted by his dismissal of my portrayal of Claudius at the 1990 National Student Drama Festival still suppurates.

Irrespective of amity or animosity between critics, though, it's impossible for anyone attending the Fringe - whether they're writing about it, performing in it, or genuine punters - to show a Rhadamanthine aspect towards the sequel to the now notorious solo show "Critical Mass". "Return of the Hack" (which should strictly be called "Return with Another Hack") thrives on the fact that those who visit Edinburgh at this time of year are privy to a sort of collective in-joke, one which may be of

little amusement to the rest of the country. The idea that it would win the Perrier is laughable, not because it is bad, but because the material wouldn't survive a minute outside this hot-house of self-gratification.

The task of surviving the next four weeks is all that Shuttleworth and Hurst (a Scotsman Fringe veteran) want their audience to concern itself with. Claiming to have evaluated 984 shows between them in their time (judging by appear-

ances, the slouching, chain-smoking Shuttleworth seems to have endured more), they promise to "hold a mirror up to the Fringe programme". More like a lighter. There are recommendations, but the emphasis, through neat one-liners and wonderfully hackish metaphors, is on how to avoid wasting time that could be spent in a pub. A discriminating mind is essential, we are told: discriminate against students, certain venues, leafleters and, above all, companies using Robbie Williams' "Let Me Entertain You" as a soundtrack ("Leave immediately. Do not stop to pick up any personal belongings").

"Return of the Hack" is faithful to the self-promoting essence of the

Fringe - Hurst exhorts the audience to rig a phone poll in their favour and attempts to distribute fliers for his own show. It also gently mocks its own recommendation to err on the side of prejudice.

They might not be the new Lee and Herring (they're twice as schoolboyishly self-referential), but they're not out of their depth, either. Catch them early before their self-imposed diet of multivitamins and neo-Garlic tablets, Nurofen, Prozac (optional) and Vitamin C, washed down with lager, take its inevitable toll.

Runs until 31 August (0131-226 2151)
DOMINIC CAVENTISH

COMEDY

CRITICAL MASS II - RETURN OF THE HACK
CALDER'S GILDED BALLOON II

Switch off your brain and tune in to the sound of the asylum

EDINBURGH 98

USUALLY the fringe's shot tickets start declaring themselves midway through the first week. "The Mighty Boosh" is that are beast - the show exalted by word-of-mouth to the status of this year's must-see before the end of week zero.

No one I've met seems quite able to describe what it is that Noel Fielding and Julian Barratt do, but

COMEDY
THE MIGHTY BOOSH
THE PLEASANCE

maybe that's because most of the people I've met are more used to straight stand-up than the kind of deliciously batty, deliberately slapdash pieces regularly presented by theatre companies such as the Right Size and Peepolykus.

That's not to say that Fielding and Barratt aren't in a league of their own (even though they and Peepolykus share the same director, Cal McCrystal). You wouldn't catch this pair attempting to make you laugh with anything so overtly calculated as a pun or piece of polished knockabout.

Their surreal shaggy-dog story, a series of spuriously related scenes strung together by line after line of inspired non-sequiturs and ludicrous sight gags, is tant in

structure but still pliable enough to sustain the illusion that the whole enterprise is as off-the-cuff as Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*.

They make their first, ridiculous appearance draped in curtains, with cotton-wool clumps for hair, and faces smeared in cold cream, prancing around to the sound of a Hammond-organ. It's like an instruction to switch off the rationalising part of your brain, although much of the subsequent humour lies in the way that Bar-

ratt's character - jazz-loving Howard Moon - attempts to grapple with the hallucinogenic forest that he and his fellow zoo-keeper find themselves mysteriously trapped in. "You've got to get with the bracken, move with the moss," he instructs Fielding's perpetually dazed pop star manqué, Vince Noir, making absurd karate chop motions to emphasise his loopy points.

It would be folly to attempt to describe what follows: the pseudo-rit-

ual dances, the stab at Russian expressionist theatre, their attempt to make a "fruit smoothie" drink with the help of Mr Susan, an ape-man with bananas for fingers and a tear from a woman from the audience "with Christmas eyes like satsumas on Boxing Day".

There are moments when the incongruous patter is stretched to breaking point (a billiard table made of narwhals, anyone?), and they laugh so much at their own jokes you wonder how they'll ever

cope with the TV careers that undoubtedly await. The world they inhabit bears more than passing resemblance to those of arch-surrealists such as Harry Hill and Reeves and Mortimer but it seems with the life generated by their own peculiar warmth. Come on in, the asylum's lovely.

Runs until 31 August (0131-556 6550)

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Four play at partner-swapping

THEATRE
HAPPY SAVAGES
LYRIC STUDIO
HAMMERSMITH

WHEN A girl goes to the trouble of delivering herself to a clap's hotel room as a gift-wrapped sex hamper (boots, leather coat, choker, sprig of festive tinsel and nothing underneath), she could be forgiven for feeling misled if his initial response were to give her a brisk lecture on the ideas of Aristophanes.

In *Happy Savages*, the new play by Ryan Craig premiered at the Lyric Studio, this is what happens to horny, heartbroken Rachel (Victoria Woodward). She is treated to a run-down of the myth that human beings were once delightfully androgynous and self-sufficient. The gods grew jealous of this happiness and sent a thunderbolt that split the male from the female, leaving both halves forever searching for each other.

With Rachel and her companion, these segments could be said to have slotted back together again pretty resoundingly: if the sexual docking action was what principally counted. But Craig's comedy - which looks at a painful piece of partner-swapping in a quartet of twenty something - demonstrates that

sex and love can be tricky items to synchronise.

Happy Savages is the 26-year-old Craig's first stage play, so it's not surprising that it exists on sharply different levels of achievement, ranging from the wittily well-observed to the crashingly schematic. There's nothing wrong in principle, for example, with making the main couple - Ben (Jack Herbert) and Lisa (Hermione Gulliford) respectively a Jewish writer researching a play on the sufferings of Holocaust survivors and a management consultant. In practice, though, it allows their differences to be aired in overweeningly neat formulations (she can't bear to suffer, he can't bear not to; he's content to slash at the tangled thickets of the world, she wants to make a clearing) rather than dramatised in their day-to-day intractability. This tendency to analytical eloquence comes across as a



Sex wars in *Happy Savages*

problem with the play, not as a further difficulty in the relationship.

The most skilful performance in David Evans Rees's production comes from Kris Marshall as Ben's best friend Joe, a lanky, scholastic co-head and divorce lawyer who has a one-night fling with Lisa at a conference and manages to get her

pregnant. Marshall has exquisitely off-hand comic timing. He can make a sexual pass at his furious girlfriend, be roundly repulsed, and shrug it off with equanimity, resuming his tasks at the ironing board and his gratingly cheerful whistle, as though it had been a figment of her imagination.

Craig is good on the laddish friendship between the two men (there's a particularly funny scene where a bedridden Joe is jerked back to consciousness by Ben's late night revelation that he's bedded Lisa's mother). But the features that make them an odd yet well-matched couple (Joe meets Catholic separatist meets the kind of conformist who hasn't the energy to rebel except in small ways) end up being spelt out in the boys' university days. The blemishes and callow touches, such as the fatal accident that facilitates the final union, don't, however, obscure the strengths. It is not a dismissal of *Happy Savages* to say that Mr Craig will write much better plays.

Runs until 22 August (0181 741 2311)
PAUL TAYLOR

The rebirth of the cool

POP
4 HERO
BLOOMSBURY THEATRE
LONDON

DESPITE THE scorching weather, there wasn't any need for air-conditioning in the Bloomsbury Theatre, for here was a cool gig, attended by chilled-out folk, glowing in a "we're-so-hip" aura. They'd flocked to see an underground duo propelled overground by their Mercury Prize nomination. 4 Hero had the limelight. Now everyone could hear just how cool they were.

After years of tantalising titbits and rousing remixes, their peculiarly orchestrated sound could be found on *Two Pages*, a two-CD set that came complete with a swanky interactive disc that played on your computer. Very cutting edge. Just like their music. They described their sound as "organic drum 'n' bass". Indeed, if *Two Pages* were a loaf of bread, it'd be a wholesome, nutty little nibble. Mark and Dejo have an appetite for Seventies soul and jazz, which is why they don't solely rely on a box of electronics to cook up tunes. At a 4 Hero gig, a string octet, horn quartet, three singers, drummer, percussionist and double bassist strum away in the background.

The sound of the ensemble reflected a near-angelic attention to detail, an obsessive blend of pitter-patter rhythms, lush strings and lightly measured vocals. In their typically clinical fashion, these musos gave dance music the kind of respect reserved for classical performances. High-brow drum 'n' bass some would say.

And this trendy lot liked what they saw. Plonked in their comfy chairs, blokes violently rocked back and forth in a dying-for-a-pee sort of manner, eager to shake a leg. But they couldn't hop down the aisles because they were in a packed theatre. And that's the attractive anomaly about 4 Hero. They're trying to redefine what dance music is - it's not just for dancing to any more. You can listen to it. Properly.

You have to listen to 4 Hero's work properly if you've got a performer

talking all over it. On "Loveless", Ursula Rucker, soon-to-be mother-judging from her protruding tummy, spoke of "mother nature" in a rhythmic, narrative style that fell somewhere between rap and poetry. It worked well, like most of 4 Hero's ideas. Projected onto an on-stage backdrop were trippy collages of skyscrapers, sharks and fish along with Star Trek images that flickered like flames. Within this "organic" context, it all somehow made sense.

But if you had to quibble, if you really wanted to nit-pick, then 4 Hero's insistence of sticking so closely to what's already on their CD linked. Where was the extended, supped-up 12" dub versions that you've come to expect from live gigs? In fact, when 4 Hero did let rip, as on "Star Chaser", everything breathed a little.

That aside, the gig's sell-out status was justified. Blair's devout embrace of Cool Britannia may have signalled the phenomenon's death, but if 4 Hero has anything to do with it, the rebirth of cool is just around the corner.

RAY DOUGLAS

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WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

Comic capers, festival fun, plus lots of info and light

The Beano

<http://www.beano.co.uk>
Who needs "graphic novels" when we have this? Roger the Dodger, Billy Whizz and Minnie the Minx celebrate DC Thomson's finest achievement at this 60th birthday site. The print version may have lost a certain essential smugness, but no one is selling out here: the intended readership has followed it loyally into cyberspace, and judging from the home-made birthday cards sent in by e-mail, Dennis the Menace can provoke his eight to 11-year-old fans to feats of artistic genius. Best of the various frolics on offer is the "Tune-tastic Bashophone", with each of the Bash Street Kids singing, growling or belching a different note when prompted by the cursor. The comic's evolution - along with its stablemate *The Dandy* - is traced from 1938 to the present day, with an eye on collectability for fanatics: so hold on to those annuals.



New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/>
Rather presciently, the *Times* last month abandoned its policy of charging overseas readers for access to its site. Since then, Col Gaddafi, M16 and other interested parties have been able to catch up on the uncensored news without paying the annual \$35 (£22) fee previously demanded from non-US visitors to

the site. The paper went online over two years ago and stayed splendidly isolationist until this July: very few international readers were willing to pay up for a visit. In common with other major US papers, however, payment is still needed to access most of the archive, where Sarah Lyall's piece on the David Shayler controversy is already available for \$2.50. However, a trial offer currently allows it, too, to be fished out for free with the aid of a credit card number.

Festival Revue

<http://www.festivalrevue.com>
Several ambitious-sounding Edinburgh Festival sites were launched over the weekend. The Festival Revue, from Sun, is a multimedia effort also being fed live to giant TV screens in the grounds of Edinburgh Castle. Ticket and venue details will be mixed with performance clips, computer art and music exclusives from Peter

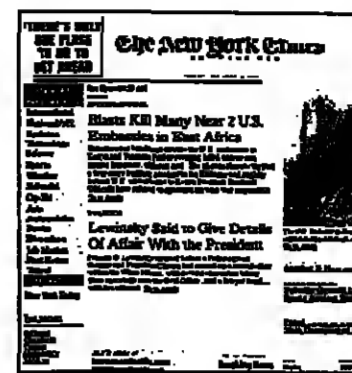


Gabriel, Radiohead, U2, Bjork and others. The modest aim is to "revolutionise the public's perception of the Arts", and the site itself will run throughout the year. The BBC's Web coverage includes *The Insider's Guide* (www.bbc.co.uk/edfest/) and the *Comedy Zone* (<http://www.comedyzone.bbc.co.uk/edinburgh98/>) which offers a video diary, an opportunity to exchange banter with

Lee and Herring and others, and searchable listings. The official festival web site offers some limited online booking facilities (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/~eif/eif98/>).

eBLAST

<http://www.eblast.com/>
Perhaps feeling a little threatened by the unruly rival reference works sprouting all around it in cyberspace, this relaunched site from Encyclopaedia Britannica evaluates and summarises some 125,000 approved pages and claims to "bring structure, context and a distinctive editorial voice to the Web". That voice is often sceptical, in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way ("When you hear the word digger, do you reach for your gun?"), but the contributions themselves are absorbing, including "Bookmarks of the Smart and Famous", and a search facility which scans eBlast's own database and AltaVista simultaneously. It is hard to beat this site as a way of exploiting the Web while



putting it firmly in its place at the same time - unless they manage to bind it into 32 volumes and flog it door-to-door.

Shadowserver
<http://taylor.lscor.berkeley.edu/shadowserver/index.html>
This Berkeley-based art site opens with a quote from Marshall McLuhan - "The electric light

escapes attention as a communication medium precisely because it has no 'content'." Viewers select particular combinations of lights, and then use them to illuminate various mysterious objects which are hidden within a box. The resulting shadowy, and rather haunting, images are meant to provoke a response from the viewer, either simply identifying the objects or coming up with something a little more poetic. "Like an an inverse camera obscura," the site suggests. Persistence reveals a sixth source of illumination, which then reveals the actual contents of the box - still to the utter bewilderment of this viewer. Is that thing with the holes in it supposed to be a sort of red-coloured cheese grater? No, it's a red herring - the medium here is light itself, and it is very much the message, too.

Send interesting, quirky or even, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

MY TECHNOLOGY

Portable little friend

Howard Marks explains why he takes his Psion everywhere



I NEED THE Psion organiser all the time, which is probably something to do with not having a memory of my own anymore. I use it as an address book, to keep phone numbers and my calendar of appointments. And for calculating, as a kind of jotter and to key in important things.

I got it about 18 months ago. I was just looking around in an airport. But it was not an impulse buy. I would call it a carefully reasoned purchase. I did not know such useful things existed until I saw this. I had used a computer before, but only in the last three years, because I was in prison and they would not let them in. When I got out and first saw them I was amazed and intrigued but knew how to get to terms with them very quickly. I think it requires a certain mind to program them, but anyone can use computers.

The Psion enables you to change addresses and phone numbers quickly. People frequently change their numbers nowadays, especially those who have mobiles. I can connect it to my computer, so that even if I lose the Psion, I have nevertheless got all the information stored. You just plug the databank into the computer. It is very straightforward. As long as you have got a backup on the

computer it is OK to rely on one source.

The Psion is similar in many respects to the computer and laptop but much smaller. Small and handy, it fits in the pocket of my trousers. It is about the size of a large glasses case, black, and it opens out in two, a bit like a calculator. And it has got a crystal screen. I take my Psion pretty much everywhere with me.

I have only had a problem with it once because I dropped it on the floor. The shortage of memory has never been a difficulty for me as it has far more than I ever use. Sometimes it is difficult to see the screen, but that is more the fault of my eyes.

I do not use anything else obsessively. I am definitely not into games technology. I would most like to learn how to use a push bike. I tried it once and fell off. I want to think of something more state of art, such as a spaceship. I do not consider myself to be technophobic. I am more willing than able to learn about new stuff.

INTERVIEWED BY JENNIFER RODGER

An Evening With Howard Marks, The Pleasance Theatre (Venue 33), Edinburgh, 5-31 August (except 11 and 25 August)

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Along side the HBOS project, the successful candidate will be expected to manage the MS-Windows based IT requirements and systems for OSL, and participate in other research programmes and instrument development projects. Minimum qualification preferred BSc Computer Science or equivalent discipline. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate at least 3 years experience of delivering complex instrument control software.

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or email to personnel@grenville.co.uk

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Thursday Education, Graduate

Sunday Public General

To advertise in this section please call the Network Team now on 0171 293 2691/2312.

THEATRE



CLASSICAL

DARTINGTON
GREAT HALL *Madeleine Mitchell*
 Violin Sonatas by Elgar, Rawsthorne and Strauss. Tonight 8.15pm. £7 & £10
 (01803-863073)

LONDON
ROYAL ALBERT HALL BB6
National Orchestra of Wales/Dafar
 A new work by Sofia Gubaidulina and Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra. Tonight 7pm. £3-£20.
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group/Rattle Contemporary British
 music. Tonight 10pm. £3 & £9
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212)
 ➤ High Street Kensington.

LECTURE THEATRE
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM
Vellington String Quartet including Flax's Piano Original in a minor. Today

1pm, £5, Cromwell Road, SW7 0171;
838 3108) or South Kensington.

TRURO
HALL FOR CORNWALL Joanne
MacGregor Piano recital including
Beethoven's last Sonata, Tonight 8pm, £10
£12.50, Back Quay (01872-262466)

LITERATURE

SWANSEA
DISCUSSING DYLAN - IRIS GOW-
ER Well-known novelist Iris
Gower discusses Dylan, the Dylan
Thomas Centre Somerset Place (01782-
463993) Tonight 7.30pm, £5, comm £3.50

COMEDY

CHRYSDON
HOT LAUGHS AT THE COOL
ROOM Salacious Scouse songbird Steve
Gribbin, Les Keen and MC Andy Fox
Tonight 8pm, £2.50 before 3pm, £5
after, London Road (0181-239 0707)

LONDON
THE COMEDY SPOT Martin Davis,
Sally Holwell, Robin Banks and MC Paul

(THRU) - TO THE DOGS AT THE DOGSTAR, FIRST FLOOR Special Carder's Gilded Balloon Edinburgh Preview with machine gun punmaster general Tim Vine, Tonight 8pm, £3, 3pm, £2, Coldharbour Lane, SW9 (0171-737 3177) @ Britton.

CLUBS

BIRMINGHAM
PLASTIC FANTASY AT CIRCO
 DJ Ryan from Numb Projects plays the eclectic electronic music, Tonight 7pm-2am, 1ue, Holloway Circus (0121-624 1400)

BRIGHTON
THE BRAZILIAN BOOGIE AT THE ESCAPEZ CLUB
 Energetic Latin dance set, Tonight 8.30pm-2am, £3, concs £2, Marine Parade (09376 603225)

CAMBRIDGE
COYCE COMBO VA
 At the FEZ Latin session with salsa lessons, Tonight 7pm-2am, £4, 3c before 10pm, 1ue before 10pm, Market Passage (01223-323880)

SPSWICH
WARPED AT HOLLYWOODS

KINGSTON
RETRO AT THE LOUNGE Pop and
dance from the 1970s and 1980s with
DJ. Tonight 5pm-2am, £3.50. £3 before
10.30pm. £2.50 before 10pm. Princess
Street (01473-230666)

LONDON
WHAT'S HOW IT IS AT BAR
WILCO: Afro-American music with
live Wilco. Gilles Peterson and James
aveline. Tonight 10pm-3am, £5.
£3 before 11pm. Shaftesbury Avenue,
E1 (0171-282 2715)

S.E.A.Y. AT LAO 21 Pop and house. Tonight
10.30pm-4am, £3. NUS/UB4/Wyer or
1. Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-434 0403)

ILLU YORICA AT THE NOTTING
HILL ARTS CLUB Soul, Jazz, Dis play
live music, funk, soul and jazz. Tonight
10pm-1am, £4. NUS/cons £3. Notting Hill
art (0171-660 4459)

ONOKA MARK 2 AT THE ENDZ-
ending Tavlin Shinn, Cleveland Watkins,
equal-1 and Ross Allen. Tonight 10pm-1
am, £7, cons £5. West Central Street
(0171-491 9199)

DEAFAROS AT MADAME JO

0pm-3am, £4. Brewer Street
(171-734 2473)

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EVENTS

ABERYSTWYTH
FAMILY RESEMBLANCE
 Exhibition of Welsh Lullabies
Mawr The University
 (01970-622440) Mon-Fri, 7.00
 ends 24 Sep, phone for price

AYLESBURY
ANIMALS AT THE EXHIBITION Discover the
 behind 'favourite children's
 stories' in the Wild
 Adventures in Wonderland and
 Posh. Bunking Hampshire Co.
 Pease Church Street (01295)
 Mon-Sat (10am-5pm, Sun 2pm
 child free.

BRENTWOOD
JAVANESE ARTS WEEK
 7-18) Fun-packed courses
 Gamelan, dance, arts at

Brentwood Theatre Sign
 (11/27-20/30/31) 10-14 Aug.
 times, \$45, book in advance

CHALKFEST '21
MAKE MEAL IN ME
 Bread and an inspiration
 from the Words of the Poets, Cal
 Air Museum, Galesburg
 (1/19-8/7/11/17) 10-16 Aug
 6pm, phone for prices.

CHESHUNT
BACKSTAGE TECH
WORKSHOP (AGES 12
 secrets of stage lighting
 equipment and special effects
 In this workshop by the
 Operatic Society, Wolsley Hall
 Lane (1/932-44194) 10-14
 10am-4pm, £25, book in advance

LONDON
CHILDREN'S SUMMER
FAIR Small family fun fair with
 rides, animals, **Aspen Park Wood**
 (0860-318570) @ Wood Gr
 Sun 12noon-7pm, ends 13 S

MILTON KEYNES
ARSENAL SOCCER S
 (7-14/19/5) Football coach
 with all nationalities
 (01908-660392) 10-13 Aug
 10am-6pm, see flyers

MUSIC
POP

CAMBRIDGE
BOO HEWERDINE Across the top: Novello award-winning songwriter formerly with **The Jesus Christ** (N17-401 121626) £9.99, £5.

LONDON
RED HOUSE PAINT
WHISTLER Mark Kozelka's Francisco guitar riffs, with a material, **The Garage Highway** (N17-407 1818) £ High Lighton. Tonight 8.30pm, £9.

BEWARE OF THE DO Party music from Gino Lipari & A Dog. **The Swamp Canaries** (N17-378 9778) £ Stockport 8.30pm, free.

KINFOLWERS, TOBY
CARING Cliché Clubs regarding live material for the forthcoming **Uprising at the King's Theatre** (N17-401 121626) £9.99, £5. **High School Sex** (N17-378 9778) £9.99, £5. **Pulney Bridge** (N17-378 9778) £9.99, £5. **High School Sex** (N17-378 9778) £9.99, £5.

MUSIC

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

LONDON

ROSE HENDERSON
Jamaican Caribbean pianist, later
to play pyrochthonium, later to
play electric guitar. **8pm** City Arts Road
(011-352 3555) & Earls Lodge
(011-352 5505), 3.30pm & 12midnight, £4.95.

OLIVER JONES THO
Jamaican traditional and modern jazz
with a Caribbean twist. **Lonsdale Road**
(0181-876 5241) 8p. Barnes
tonight 8pm, £10.

THE TWO TENSORS
American mainstream jazz
and heavy Latin. **Pizza Express**, 4
Park Street W (011-439 4928) 8pm, 7.25p

JOSE NETO QUARTET
Brazilian jazz-rock. **Twilight** 8pm

JOSE NETO QUARTET
Brazilian jazz-rock quartet.
City of the Froth. **Square W** (0171-43
9000) 8pm, £12, 12pm, £25.
@ Leicester. **Seaside**, 9
Mon-Thurs; 2pm, 12pm, 5pm, 8pm (Fri-
Sat) 8pm, 12pm, 5pm, 8pm

SONOBO'S ARK Etc
Jamaican grooves. **Worship House** 111
Sturke Street. **H16** (0171-25-
4000) 8pm. **Stoke Newington**, tonight 9p

WATFORD

ALAN SKIDMORE QUARTET
Jamaican. **Underland**, 100-101

Telephonist. Pizza Express, 111 High Street (01923-213991) 11.30am, £3.

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